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RECEIVED

March 11, 2004

Mr. Robert Hare  
California State Parks  
Northern Service Center  
PO Box 942896  
Sacramento, CA 94296-0001

MAR 15 2004

NORTHERN SERVICE CENTER

Re: Comments on Tomales Bay State Park, Marin County, CA  
PGP/DEIR

Our biggest concern is fixing the existing Park problems; more staffing. We have many concerns with the above Plan and the three alternatives/ preferred alternative. There is much contradiction with the Mission and the Purpose. In spite of the Goals/Guidelines, it appears recreation use is number 1 and environment/cultural number 2.

16.1

16.2

HEARTS DESIRE BEACH AREA: The past and present problems have been the kayakers - individual and concessions who dominate the area and beaches with their gear. They are loud and disruptive to the public who try to enjoy silence, solitude, nature sounds, read, relax - it's impossible even along the little pocket beaches. This is not a "positive park experience". The kayak concessions come in truck loads of 8-15 boats from all over. The scene becomes a zoo. There are just too many kayakers 7 days a week. We would like to see this decreased not increased.

16.3

Restrooms: It will be a negative environmental impact if these are removed, new parking, etc. Often it is far worse to "go back to the past" environmentally.

16.3.1

Bike/hike camp sites: Reopen but, correct the name to just "camp sites/ hike in" where the small number of cars are left at the top of Pierce Pt. Road and trailhead. Bikers don't carry camping gear on their backs or bikes. They need cars to bring in gear and bikes. There should be no fires of wood burning due to the air pollution - odor and smoke in park taking away the natural forest fragrances. It's very bad at Samuel P. Taylor State Park.

16.4

Increase the park entrance fee back to \$5 per car - everyone can afford this per car load. The money should remain for this park's use. New or repair picnic tables at the camp sites - moss growing on them for lack of use and need to be scraped clean for the air/sun to dry them out. Minimal or no more signs in this park on West or East side of the Bay.

16.5

16.6

JEPSON GROVE AND OTHER PARK AREAS: No prescribed Fire Management - this destroys the natural habitat of all wildlife from newts to large mammals. Causes air quality-pollution and odor to visitors and all the residences in the community of Inverness, Pt. Reyes NS, Pt. Reyes Station. Telling the public to close your windows, stay in doors is not a pleasant solution. It is also a health hazard to many. Prevents visitors/locals from being out doors and many coming out from other towns, states or out of the country would have a negative experience and relay this to friends about what is done here. Destroying underbrush will have adverse effects on the woodrat nests which are numerous in the park - the woodrat needs the thickness around the nest and a wide area beyond. Fire, Chainsaws, manual tools and presence of humans will disturb these creatures and will abandon the nest - mice live also in these nest and both are source of food for owls particularly the Northern Spotted Owls who live in this park.

16.7

Construction of a new office/kiosk/bus parking isn't an improvement but environmentally bad.

16.8

(over pg. 2)

pg. 2

Hordes of buses coming through our communities and traveling the West Marin Roads is horrifying bring crowds in groups, noise and air pollution and an ugly sight in parking lots. No one wants another Yosemite.

Indian Beach Trail to Marshall Beach Trail: Concerns where this will be constructed; affects private property like Duck Cove; wildlife corridors, L Ranch cattle disturbances, Perhaps a very low impact trail could be feasible without destroying the environment.

**16.9**

Johnstone Trail head at Pierce Pt. Road to cross into a ranchers pastures to connect somehow/somewhere to Mt. Vision Road - that is a road not a trail and public would have to cross 2 busy roads. The construction of such a plan would have adverse effects; running into the edge of private property such as the dirt road to homes at the top of Ottinger Hill. This road gated leads to Mt. Vision Road but a long way from any trails. This is a beautiful wooded area and should be left undeveloped and, also there is a safety issue like illegal camping and camp fires and would require staffing to patrol constantly, and, this will never happen - no funds!

**16.10**

INVERNESS AREA: I went to this area and agree all structures on the North and South Dream Farm Road should be removed. It was shocking to see how long these have remained here. While it appears 1 or 2 small houses for staffing would be a good idea; putting 3-5 picnic tables for day use only with developed parking and you probably want to put in restrooms, this would have an adverse effect of the habitat. It would also intrude on the park staffs privacy. There is room for a couple of cars now without adverse effect if left alone. However, when I explored this area I saw that it is a habitat zone where possibly red legged frogs exist, newts and many other wildlife including Spotted Owl territory. It is a wetland/marsh/creek/flood zone and watershed area. Possible future plans of creating a self-guided nature loop trail - to where? - how, given this special environment and a trail link to the top of Inverness Ridge to Pt. Reyes NS. Public useage could possibly increase fire danger with illegal camping/campfires, tossed cigarettes and trashing the area with cans and bottles just like we see now in the bay area of TBSP. Again, impossible to constantly patrol. The fear of out of control fires in a steep canyon watershed. The Inverness Public Utility brought this negative impact to the States attention with a letter but, the report was ignored! This isn't how you get local community support of any plans.

**16.10.1**

**16.11**

Signage from Sir Francis Drake would attract all kinds of people and this road is a private road going to the top on North and South Dream Farm. People ignore Private Property/Do not Enter signs out here and increase chances of breaking into homes (some are 2nd homes here) and fire danger. North/South Dream Farm should be reconsidered as a development area and review as a potential habitat restoration instead of development..

**16.11.1**

MILLERTON and MILLERTON UPLANDS TRAIL: Alternative 3 applies here in respect to NO BIKES FOR EAST SIDE. Note: these bikers particularly from Marin Groups are considered the most self-centered, arrogant and are not nature people who care deeply about the environment - only some really care. A peninsula group of bikers told me that they have never seen such attitude as one sees here in Marin. It shows clearly when they are on the roads in large groups or individually. Open Space of Marin sees the same attitude - biking where they aren't allowed; illegal trails made.

**16.12**

At Millerton: housing of the mobile home and other blight objects should be removed as this is seen from the "scenic" highway 1. No more visual housing here. We would not like to see any facilities on the eastside

**16.13**



March 11, 2004

of the highway 1 near the Sheep Ranch Road; for aesthetic reasons and harmful ecologically. A real adverse affect here. However, we do feel a small restroom should be placed,hidden, where the outhouse is now.

The Osprey nest needs to be continued to be protected from the public and no developed trails and,public to remain on the trail away from the nest. Any approach toward the nest has an adverse effect on the birds and they give out an upset warning call and fly off the nest when they need to remain on the nest to keep eggs and new chicks warm and safe from predators. Also affects them during mating time and nest building - in other words these birds are affected by any disturbance during the whole time until chicks are ready to be left alone or about to fledge. I have studied/followed these birds for many years and have many photos of them in various stages. They also nest in other parts of TBSP. One nest is just below the maintenance yard and any camping development there would interfere with this nest as public would walk down to get closer to the nest.

16.14

Tomasini Pt.Trail: I walked the whole area on a nice informal trail and saw and went through marshy wetlands with spring wildflowers that will be damaged if the trail is developed the way the park does trails. Very sensitive habitat with little ponds and unknown to me what lives there. Right now this is a beautiful piece of land with brush and trees and grasses, water for assorted wildlife. Developing this area with screened parking lots and restrooms should be reconsidered. Right now there is room for 5-6 cars along the highway. The natural beauty of this Point should be preserved for viewing from travelers on Highway 1 (the scenic highway) and across the bay Inverness/PRNS/TBSP. This is a very windy site.

16.15

MARCONI COVE AREA: Alternative 3 applies here. This is a devastating planned development in every way - snack bar/gift shop to boot; in a State Park and along a scenic route; any concession is a negative. The project is large on a tiny piece of land.

16.16

Wildlife disturbance: River otters forge along the shore and I witnessed in February 2004 an otter feeding off shore; came to the north end of rock outcroppings and an old tire to eat its prey to support it against the rocks or tire. Thankfully, I was able to observe this activity with out disturbing it nor anyone coming - because it is undeveloped with no signs and one section is gated.

16.17

Harbor Seals: They have been hauling out on the rafts (south area) floating off shore used for osyster business. This has been going on (seal haul out) for some years and remain or return when not disturbed by the oystermen. I am a marine mammal survey volunteer for the Pt.Reyes Natl.Seashore, Dr. Sarah Allen and have been doing this work going on 8 years. One of my counts was 100 seals; the numbers vary up and down; the harbor seals need to haul out 8-10 hours about a day, undisturbed sites on beaches,sandbars(like at Lawson's Landing)or rafts/docks. They are constantly disturbed by kayakers, abalone divers,humans on beaches,other haul outs and dogs disturb them.

Starting in late summer,early fall water fowl,migratroy birds flock to the Tomales Bay in the thousands seeking rest,shelter,food and Marconi Cove is one of the busiest locations protecting from the public and the winds and rough waters. Cormorants, herons and Brown Pelicans also rest on these rafts. I have taken photos of this marvelous scene. The wildlife will not tolerate development(construction), public activities

(over pg4)

There are homes along this shore north & south of the proposed developed sites and public mass use would infringe on the private property and owners privacy and their own shoreline beach use. Affecting their solitude of the homeowners. There is heavy traffic both directions of blind corners when cars try to enter the highway. More signage again, affects the aesthetics and is not encouraged. A very small day use with a few picnic tables - perhaps 5 or 6. You would have to have a trash bin which would need to be not visible from the road and not standing out in the area. Also a restroom-small would probably need to be constructed but due to septic may not be possible so close to the bay. Would have to be hidden from the view corridors. Maybe a small discrete interpretive sign.

16.18

NORTH MARSHALL AREA: Any development on this property would be a big impact(negative). We would be against campsites, parking lot, restrooms. An informal low impact trail would be acceptable. But the remoteness of this lovely property should be preserved for its natural habitat, watershed and to view the open space. No dogs on any of the lands.

16.19

Additional concerns: The Bay is not a mill pond - it is a very rough, windy body of water and very deceiving to the outsider - city person. Boaters often get into trouble causing problems for the PRNS rangers who must go out and rescue them when the boaters should never have left land. This takes the ranger(s) away from land duty where they may be needed. The National parks are not in any better shape financially then the State Parks and have never been the way they should be, no thanks to Congress. We must expect less of the same in the future, sadly.

16.19.1

Traffic issues will be enormous and your plan will encourage more people then our little communities want - we already have too much to handle. Our communities want to remain small and retain its character.

16.20

In October-November 2003 I saw 5 river otters cruise down from Hearts Desire and north of that, past me at a pocket beach within a couple of feet from me, came out of the water and into a marshy/creek area and made otter noises. While I waited in the area to catch a photo for a few hours, only one came out of the marsh and into the bay to continue feeding. No one else was on the beach at the time and how lucky I was, and no kayakers. With your proposed development I doubt if this would be seen again due to disturbances constantly. These otters go all the way to White House Pool(Lagunitas creek) and Samuel P. Taylor State Pk.

16.20.1

Dogs: I witnessed a deer swimming away from shore off Shallow and Pebble Beach chased by a dog from Shallow Beach private deveopment. 3 kayakers were in the area and 2 saw the deer, paddled toward the buck-he already has been frightened into the water. I screamed and waved my arms to indicate for them to get away from the deer, which they finally did. Dog signs like No bike signs are destroyed/taken down -the signs are never secured properly to prevent the thief/destruction. I reported all of the above to the park ranger. The No Camping/No Fires sign on Pebble Beach have been removed which now will encourage kayakers to camp there. Property owners adjacent to parks should be advised by the State Parks/National Parks to leash/tie their dogs. Dog signs have been removed years ago and never replaced at top of Sea Haven(beyond the water tanks area); Perth entrance into State Park - 2-3 dogs at a time and one dog owner who knows dogs not allowed continues to walk his dog here. It's Mesa (Inverness) owners who walk dogs into the State Park and either through the Nature Conservancy area or up to the top of Inverness

16.20.2

pg. 5  
Re: Tomales Bay State Park

March 11, 2004  
Van DER Wal

Ridge that connects to the Pt. Reyes National Seashore - Mt. Vision Road where dogs also are not allowed. Wildlife is not on their list of protection. No Dog signs were <sup>not</sup> put up when the rare visit of the Black Bear appeared last spring. There should be funds for this item - always.

PREScribed FIRE MANAGEMENT GOAL: We are against this type of "management" due to the possibility (great) of out of control burns, air and odor pollution in our communities, homes and park enjoyment. Closing windows and doors when home owners/store owners need the air is not a good solution. It destroys undergrowth habitat and protection for wildlife whose survival depends on this foliage. Even the tiniest creatures are impacted and burned to death. Prevents being out on own property - working or enjoying the deck. Aesthetically scars the environment. It has become an obsession ever since we had our one fire which was started in the Tomales Bay State Park above Inverness and then spread to Mt. Vision Road and on to other areas.

16.21

A note about "fuel reduction" - cutting trees and underbrush, in respect to woodrat nests. In 2002 the Inverness Fire Dept. had the brush and trees cut down on upper Vision Road - a privately maintained road that is gated at the top and becomes Pt. Reyes Natl. Seashore. There were about 10-12 woodrat nest (the park did not include all of the nest along this road) and the brush around and near these nest were destroyed leaving the nest exposed and this loss of habitat caused many of the woodrats to abandon their nests. It seems the tagging did get the attention of the landscaping crew but, they took down the tag attached to the bush and carried on. I know the park advised the owner of the crew what not to do. There was no supervision by the park during this work. Now with more trees gone and undergrowth, wild turkeys are enjoying this new open habitat no thanks to the Calif. Fish and Game who reintroduced this pests in West Marin and is everywhere in Inverness; decks, yards and gardens. Something to keep in mind when you discuss under brush and fires in the State Park. I'm sure the Pt. Reyes experts will be advising you. Incidentally, I saw a hen wild turkey in TBSP in May 2003!

Signage: This is a big negative and impacts the character on our communities - Inverness, Pt. Reyes Station, Olema, Stinson, Bolinas and Marshall, Nicasio. It affects the aesthetics of our roadways, parks and less is better. Presently there are about 99 signs from Bear Valley Road and Sir Francis Drake (intersection) to the top of Ottingers Hill just before the large Pt. Reyes NSS sign. We don't want any more signs in Inverness. You mention signs for the State Park along roadways - there are plenty now.

16.22

Indian Beach Trail: bring back the interpretive signs which were placed at very informative sites including posion oak; use treated wood posts to prevent rot. There are no more signs up along this trail. No new projects before old ones replaced.

16.23

Our big concerns are protection and preservation of the whole natural ecosystem, including all wildlife on land, marine. We see substantial degradation to the environment - natural & cultural with your Plans/Goals. We would like to see less commercialization of Tomales Bay and the State Park to prevent destruction of the very core of this beautiful park which draws people to it because of the space, solitude, silence and aesthetics, plant and wildlife in an uncrowded area compared to your increase of crowds with their "toy" possessions.

16.24

(over pg 6)

**LETTER  
#16**

As stated by the Sierra Club comments, we too have concerns "the carrying capacity is determined AFTER development" and "funded impacts dependent on unfunded mitigations".

16.24

Funding is a constant problem as our State Parks never have enough funds and therefore not enough staffing, rangers to pay attention to running a park. Without funds this Plan is of no use. It seems politicians are not park users and haven't a clue why they are needed. We as taxpayers pay for the parks but, there is never the money and we pay entrance fees to use them. Over time some of our parks won't handle more crowds and a balance will be very difficult to achieve. Finally, there is not a reasonable range of choices within the 3 Alternatives and the Preferred Alternative. While we like Alternative 3 we do not like what is included in the Preferred Alternative with it. Therefore we can only support the Alternative 1 - NO ACTION.

16.25

16.26

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Tomales Bay State Park Plan.

Sincerely,

*Susan + John Van Der Wal*

Susan and John Van Der Wal  
PO Box 264  
Inverness, CA 94937  
email: jvdwal@svn.net

## *Response to Letter 16*

**Susan and John Van Der Wal**

**March 11, 2004**

- 16.1** The General Plan recommends appropriate facilities and programs for Tomales Bay State Park and does not focus on funding and staffing issues. Current “park problems” and staffing levels should be addressed through the Department’s Marin District office. Please refer to **Response 4.1** for a discussion of the relationships between the General Plan proposals and Department funding and staffing issues.
- 16.2** The General Plan recommends providing recreational opportunities for the people of California while protecting natural, cultural and aesthetic resources at the park. Please see **Response 9.1** for further information regarding the Department’s commitment to enhancing and preserving natural and cultural resources in the park.
- 16.3** The Department acknowledges commenter’s concerns about commercial uses of park property. The Department’s North Bay District management has been advised of commenter’s concerns about commercial uses of park property, such as commercial kayaking.
- 16.3.1** The General Plan does not propose moving the Heart’s Desire Beach restroom or providing new parking at this site.
- 16.4** The General Plan has proposed the development of small campgrounds at the park. Please refer to **Response 7.4** for a discussion on the closure of the former hike/bike campground in the Heart’s Desire area. The Department acknowledges the commenter’s concern with campfire smoke occasionally obscuring the natural fragrance of the forest. The park staff has authority to regulate fire use in the park without direction from the General Plan (this is not a General Plan-level issue).
- 16.5** A General Plan does not address the subject of park entrance fees. It is a long-range planning document that focuses on recommendations for appropriate recreational opportunities and enhancement and protection of the park’s natural, cultural, and aesthetic resources.
- 16.6** As discussed in the Public Access and Circulation Guideline, ACC-11, page 148, park signage should be evaluated. Appropriate signs should be added or retained in order to orient visitors, interpret resources, and provide warnings of potential hazards. Unnecessary signs may be modified or removed, as appropriate.

- 16.7** The Department acknowledges commenter's desire to not have prescribed burns in the park. The General Plan addresses prescribed fire as a management tool in the park. Please see the Prescribed Fire Management Goal and Guidelines (VEG-8, VEG-9, VEG-10) on page 133 of the General Plan for more information on this topic. Guideline VEG-8 includes "air quality goals" as one of the important considerations of Prescribed Fire Management.
- 16.8** The Department will take necessary precautions to minimize potential negative impacts of any traffic increases caused by implementing any of the plan's proposals in the communities around the park. In general, the region has very good air quality, and the relatively small increases in traffic from proposed projects would not create significant amounts of additional air pollution to the area (see the Environmental Analysis – Potentially Significant Environmental Effects - Air Quality section on page 198). Please see **Response 9.11** for further discussion of potential traffic impacts and proposed mitigations.
- 16.9** Thank you for your concerns about the possible trail connection between the Indian Beach Trail and the trails of the National Seashore. The Department will address such concerns with the National Park Service (NPS) if and when NPS should express a desire to develop a trail connection across their lands to connect with the Indian Beach Trail.
- 16.10** Thank you for your concerns about the possible trail connection between the Johnstone Trail and the trails of the National Seashore. The Department will address such concerns with the National Park Service (NPS) if and when NPS should express a desire to develop a trail connection across their lands to connect with the Johnstone Trail.
- 16,10.1** The Department is committed to protecting wetland and riparian areas and the species they support. Please see **Responses 9.18** and **9.19** for further information on this subject.
- 16.11** The Department is concerned about fire in the park and the region. The west side of the bay is particularly vulnerable to wildfire. When funding becomes available for implementation of General Plan proposals in the Inverness area, further assessment of the potential impacts to resources, including the potential for fire caused by the development of facilities, will help determine actual size and types of facility development there. Please see **Response 3.14** for further discussion of potential wildfire.
- 16.11.1** The Department will work with residents sharing the North Dream Farm Road access of Sir Francis Drake Blvd. to ensure that any future public access development on the Department's North Dream Farm property

does not negatively affect private property rights and security of residents in the area. The General Plan proposals will be further investigated when funding becomes available for implementation.

- 16.12** The Department acknowledges commenter's preference for Alternative 3 and concerns with biking behavior. Future bicycling on potential multi-use trails in the park will be managed through public education programs, signage, and regulations that will address this concern.
- 16.13** The Department acknowledges commenter's preference for removing existing staff housing at Millerton Point and for no more such housing at this location. The park residences and trailer pads on both sides of the bay are essential to park operations, emergency off-hour response, as well as for recruitment and retention of employees in a high-cost area. Guideline MIL-3 proposes upgrading the current sanitary facility at the Millerton Point parking lot.
- 16.14** The Department appreciates commenter's concerns with osprey nesting in the park. Please refer to **Response 3.3** for a revision to the General Plan text regarding the proposed campground at the Heart's Desire area, and **Response 7.3** for additions to Guideline WIL-6 regarding osprey in the park.
- 16.15** The Department acknowledges commenter's preference for reconsidering upgrading parking and providing restroom facilities at the Tomasini Point Trailhead.
- 16.16** When funding becomes available for implementation of General Plan proposals for the Marconi Cove site, further site investigations, including traffic, safety and concessions assessments, and consultations with other agencies, will take place. These future assessments and surveys will help determine the actual size and locations of facilities for the property. Please refer to **Response 8.8**.
- 16.17** The Department appreciates commenter's wildlife observations and concerns. Please refer to **Response 8.8** further discussion of the Marconi Cove area proposals.
- 16.18** The Department will take necessary precautions to minimize potential negative impacts caused by implementing any of the plan's proposals on the communities around the park. When funding becomes available for implementation of General Plan proposals, further site investigations, including traffic and safety assessments, and consultations with other agencies, including Caltrans, will take place. Please refer to **Response 9.11** regarding

further discussion of potential traffic impacts and proposed mitigations.

- 16.19** As discussed on page 172, the vision for the North Marshall Area is for management with an emphasis on preserving the natural habitat, watershed, scenic, and open space recreational values. Although public recreational development is not proposed for this property at this time, low intensity public access and use (which may include a trail) may be considered in the future. The Department acknowledges commenter's preference for no dogs on any park lands. The Department has system-wide park policies regarding dogs in State Park Units. The park unit further defines these dog-walking policies for each park unit, places and maintains regulatory signs, and enforces these policies and regulations. The General Plan is not designed to address this level of park operational details.
- 16.19.1** The Department acknowledges commenter's concerns about the dangers of boating on Tomales Bay and funding for State Park and National Park Service patrol and rescue operations on Tomales Bay. Please see **Response 4.1** for more information on funding.
- 16.20** The General Plan discusses potential traffic impacts to the park and region from its development proposals. Please refer to **Responses 16.8 and 16.19** for a discussion on potential traffic impacts from General Plan proposals.
- 16.20.1** The Department acknowledges commenter's wildlife observations and concerns that the General Plan's proposals, if implemented, might eliminate such wildlife experiences. Please see **Responses 9.1, 9.18, and 9.19** for information regarding the Department's commitment to preserving native species in the park.
- 16.20.2** The Department acknowledges commenter's concerns about dogs in the park and park signage. Please see **Response 9.19** for further discussion on this subject.
- 16.21** The General Plan recommends the rehabilitation of the role of fire in the natural ecological processes of the park. The Department shares the commenter's concerns about the presence of fire in the park and the potential of wildfire. On page 154 of the plan, there is the recommendation for development of a Wildfire Management Plan that would address Prescribed Fire Management Programs and strategies to minimize wildfire risk. Please see **Response 3.14** for further discussion on proposed mitigations for the potential presence of fire in the park.



- 16.22** The Department acknowledges commenter's preference for fewer signs on roadways. The Department agrees that no more signs than are necessary are preferable in areas where the Department has jurisdiction.
- 16.23** The Department acknowledges commenter's preference for restoring interpretive signs along the Indian Beach Trail and for having no new projects before old ones are replaced. The Department's North Bay District management has been advised of these concerns of the commenter.
- 16.24** The Department acknowledges commenter's concerns that the General Plan's proposals, if implemented, might degrade the natural and cultural environments. Please see the Parkwide Goals and Guidelines for Natural and Cultural Resources Management on pages 128-140 of the General Plan for information regarding the Department's commitment to preserving natural and cultural environments in the park.

The General Plan is a first-tier environmental impact report that depends on future resource assessments and surveys to help determine carrying capacity for facility development on a specific site. Please see **Response 8.2** for further information on this subject. At the time of implementation, specific projects are evaluated for consistency with the General Plan. In addition, specific development projects must also comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) by evaluating potential negative environmental impacts and proposing mitigation measures and monitoring where necessary as part of the project.

- 16.25** The Department appreciates commenter's concerns about park funding and budgeting. Please see **Response 4.1** for more information on funding and budgeting issues.
- 16.26** The Department acknowledges the commenter's preference for Alternative #1. Alternatives #2 and #3 and the Preferred Alternative (the proposals of the General Plan) include recommendations for camping facilities at the park. There is high demand for camping facilities statewide and there is a lack of existing public camping facilities in West Marin. As such, this type of recreational opportunity was given high priority in the planning process and was included in all of the alternatives as a type of facility that should be part of the General Plan. Please see the "Planning Influences and Issues – Camping" section of the General Plan on page 111 for further description of the current camping situation in West Marin.

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**RECEIVED**

March 10, 2004

MAR 15 2004

**NORTHERN SERVICE CENTER**

California State Parks  
Northern Service Center  
Attn: Bob Hare  
P.O.Box 942896  
Sacramento, CA 94296-0001

Mr. Hare:

We would like to make comments on the Preliminary General Plan/Draft Environmental Impact Report document for Tomales Bay State Park. Rather than comment on all aspects of the plan, we will keep our comments focused on the area of our greatest concern and familiarity, the Inverness area.

We own and live on property adjacent to Tomales State Park at 33 North Dream Farm Road. Our comments are as follows:

**Park residence**

The existing, though derelict, park residence is worth restoration as a residence as it is architecturally unique and historically significant to the Dream Farm area. It was used by park employees until approximately six years ago. Affordable housing is so scarce in West Marin that any loss in housing inventory, even park employee housing, is a great loss to the community. The State Park service needs to do its part to help alleviate this shortage. The building is now in a hazardous condition and is an attractive nuisance. The trailers on the property have become extremely hazardous and should be removed immediately.

**17.1**

**Road improvements**

If a trailhead or picnic area is to be established at the North Dream Farm Road site the road will need to be widened to two full lanes. The road entrance onto Sir Francis Drake Blvd. is extremely hazardous because high speed traffic comes around the turn from the north making ingress and egress very difficult. This is made even more hazardous by the road being single lane at the entrance. Widening to two full lanes would reduce the hazard but not eliminate it.

**17.2**

**Sensitive wetlands protection**

Widening the road would encroach significantly into a very sensitive wetland area. Any development in the valley would also have a negative effect the wetlands as they cover almost the entire valley floor. This riparian area supports a wide variety native plants and animal species. There are invasive plant species, primarily pampas grass, in large areas in the side canyons, road cuts and other disturbed areas. An eradication program should be created now.

**17.3**

**17.4**

**Fire hazard**

If a picnic area is developed fires should not be allowed at any time. Directly uphill from the proposed picnic area are homes separated only by a steep, dry and forested hillside. There should be no fires allowed at any time or of any type should this area be developed into a picnic site.

**17.5**

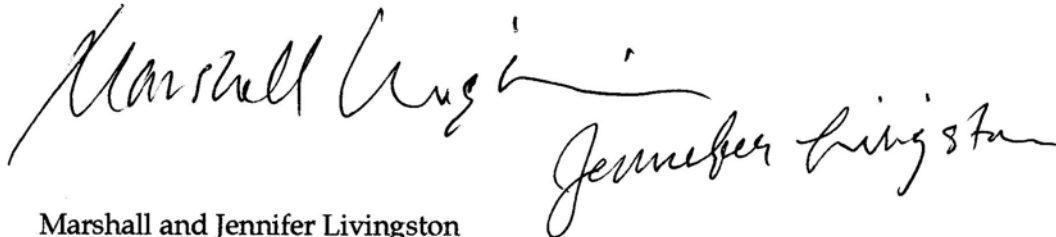
**Trails and erosion**

The creation of a connector trail to the ridge from the canyon bottom would be difficult to build without large cuts and fills due to the steep sides of the canyon. There are existing trails and roads with state easements that connect from Sir Francis Drake Blvd. to the top of the ridge. Additional easements on existing trails and roads connecting state and federal lands would enhance the trail network without excavation and the resulting erosion. I recommend a state easement through the Nature Conservancy lands from North Dream Farm Road to the top of the ridge. This would create an excellent loop of hiking trails from the ridge top to Sir Francis Drake Blvd.

**17.6**

This concludes our comments on the Preliminary General Plan/Draft Environmental Impact Report document for Tomales Bay State Park. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

Handwritten signatures of Marshall and Jennifer Livingston in black ink. Marshall's signature is on the left, and Jennifer's is on the right, overlapping slightly.

Marshall and Jennifer Livingston  
33 North Dream Farm Road  
Inverness, CA 94937  
415-669-1133  
marshall@dream-farm.com

## *Response to Letter 17*

**Marshall and Jennifer Livingston**

**March 10, 2004**

- 17.1** The Department has determined that the old Bender home is too dilapidated to restore and it has asbestos and lead issues that also make it unsuitable for use. The Department is delaying removal of the building because it approaches historic structure status and warrants further evaluation and documentation to determine its significance. Guideline INV-2 supports removal of the obsolete trailers. Guideline OPS-2 supports the provision of park housing needs on park property.
- 17.2** The Department thanks you for your comments on the North Dream Farm property and your concerns for needed road improvements if this site were to be developed and opened for public use. The Department will consider such concerns during any future planning process to determine the specific practicality of and/or design for any public day-use facility or trail development that may occur in this area. The Department will consult Caltrans and assess traffic patterns and needs before any facility design or development occurs at this site.
- 17.3** The Department thanks you for your comments on the North Dream Farm property and your concerns for possible wetland impacts if this site were to be developed and opened for public use. The Department is committed to protecting wetland and riparian areas and the species they support. Please see **Responses 9.18** and **9.19** for further information on this subject. The Department will complete wetland delineation and impact assessment before any facility design or development occurs at this site.
- 17.4** Invasive plants are especially common in disturbed areas, such as road cuts. Roads and trails can also become dispersal corridors for invasive plants. As previously discussed, the general plan outlines numerous guidelines for invasive plant management and control (please see **Response 9.16**).
- 17.5** The Department thanks you for your comments on the proposals for a day use picnic facility at the North Dream Farm property. The Department will consider the fire potential in the Inverness area during any future planning process to determine the specific design and management for any public day-use facility that may occur in this area.
- 17.6** The Department thanks you for your comments on the trail proposal for the Inverness Ridge. The Department will consider these ideas during any future planning process to determine the specific practicality of and/or design for any trail development that may occur in this area concerning park land.

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**RECEIVED**

March 11, 2004

**MAR 15 2004**

California State Parks

**NORTHERN SERVICE CENTER**

Northern Service Center

Attention: Bob Hare

P. O. Box 942896

Sacramento, California 94296-0001

Mr. Hare:

RE: Tomales Bay area of State Park Lands

Having attended the February 24th public informational meeting at the Dance Palace in Point Reyes Station, I would like to make the following comments:

1. In the Millerton area, I oppose providing the upland hike/bike trail and any creation of a parking area on the east side of Highway One to accommodate same. I have no objection to a hiking trail, but to add bikes (which would be mountain bikes) would add the potential for intimidation of, and accidents on, hikers by bikers. The co-use of a trail by hikers and bikers puts the hikers at a serious disadvantage of enjoyment as well as providing the potential for injury. This has been proven again and again on already-existent co-use trails in other areas. The end result is usually that hikers avoid the trail and the bikers own it.

**18.1**

Further, any parking facility on the east side of Highway One will draw bikers and hikers to drive there. The Highway One corridor from Point Reyes Station to Marshall is already rather dangerous and overused (as described by Marshall residents). Providing a "draw" to non-locals to use the area for bikes would result in increasing the danger and traffic problems on Highway One.

**18.2**

2. In the Millerton area, I oppose adding a restroom at Tomasini Point, although I approve of providing a two-car parking facility there. Adding a restroom will, by necessity, require a much larger parking facility, opening the area to greater use and impact. I also oppose improving the restroom at Millerton. I find the restroom there sufficient for the use it gets, and I also think the parking area should be left as is. The present use of the area is sufficient and proper and does not need more in any regard. As a weekender and resident from 1958 to 1974, I feel that this area in particular should remain as a historical memory.

**18.3**

3. In the entire Tomales Bay area, I oppose any campground additions that would solicit anything other than walk-in/drop-off situations that would negate recreational vehicles. The addition of rv tourists to the area, outside of the Olema Campground or Taylor Camp, would reduce the local community support and enjoyment of the area. It is simply not acceptable to the West Marin community, as proven by recent uprisings against county attempts to increase tourism in the area. **18.4**

4. In the Marconi area, I oppose the addition of a campground and day-use boat launching. I do so in response to the potential increase in the use of Highway One in the area and the negative impact on nearby local residents. **18.5**

5. Overall, I would suggest to State Park management that discretionary funds in California are non-existent at the moment and for the foreseeable future. Because of the lack of funding possibilities, triage should be done on portions of the presented plan according to support from the local communities. Attempts to superimpose State Park plans against local opposition could easily result in local-community responses in state-wide media outlets. I would prefer to see cooperation between the State Parks and local communities to minimize the impact on the area according to local needs and desires. **18.6**

Cordially,  
  
Donna Sheehan

Marshall

--

\*\*\*\*\*

Donna Sheehan  
P.O. Box 753  
Marshall, CA 94940

Tel/Fax: 415-663-8058



## *Response to Letter 18*

**Donna Sheehan**

**March 11, 2004**

- 18.1** When funding becomes available for trail development at the park, the Department will assess potential resource and visitor experience impacts from proposed facilities. The General Plan's guidelines for the Millerton Uplands trail on page 169, in MIL-2, says that the "proposed trail *could* be designed to accommodate mountain biking *where appropriate*." If the trail is developed as a multi-use trail, trail design, signage, education, and operational regulations and enforcement can minimize trail user conflicts.
- 18.2** The General Plan clearly states the Department's preference for using the existing trailhead at Millerton Point if possible. Please refer to **Response 3.17** for more information on the Millerton Point trail proposals.

The General Plan, in its Environmental Analysis section, has found that the impacts from increased traffic due to its proposals will not be significant (see pages 226 – 227 for a description of potential traffic impacts from plan proposals). However, the plan does make recommendations to encourage bicycle, public transit, and other types of transportation alternatives to access the park.

- 18.3** Adding a small restroom facility at Tomasini Point will not necessitate a significantly larger parking area. Along with the improved trail and parking, it will improve the visitor accommodations in this area. Improvements to the restroom and parking in the Millerton area will also be visitor facility improvements and serve as a trailhead for both Millerton Point and Millerton Upland trails. With the addition of the Millerton Uplands trail, improvements to these facilities will be necessary to accommodate increased visitor use.
- 18.4** Due to growing regional and statewide populations and statewide surveys that indicate an unmet need for camping facilities both statewide and in West Marin, the General Plan has proposed small campground areas for the park. Please refer to **Response 3.3 and 8.8** for text revisions regarding camping in the park, and **Response 13.2** for more information about state and regional camping facility deficits.
- 18.5** The Department has acquired properties on the east side of Tomales Bay to help provide recreational opportunities for the public and to enhance and protect resources there. Each site proposed for development in the General Plan will be further evaluated for potential resource and visitor experience impacts and appropriate numbers and locations of facilities as

funding becomes available. Please refer to **Response 8.8** for more information regarding recreation at Marconi Cove.

- 18.6** The general planning process for Tomales Bay State Park included numerous public involvement opportunities at which local community members participated and contributed valuable comments. These concerns and suggestions were considered in the development of planning proposals for the park. The Department's mission includes consideration of both local concerns and a statewide perspective for the preservation of important natural and cultural resources in state parks and the provision of appropriate recreational opportunities for the people of California.

Please see **Response 4.1** for a discussion of a General Plan's function and purpose regardless of a lack of funds for development of facilities or programs for the park.

Jeanette Marie Pontacq  
P. O. Box 1237  
Point Reyes Station, CA 94956  
415 663 1700

March 10, 2004

California State Parks  
Northern Service Center  
Attention: Bob Hare  
P. O. Box 942896  
Sacramento, California 94296-0001

RECEIVED  
MAR 15 2004  
NORTHERN SERVICE CENTER

Mr. Hare:

**RE: Tomales Bay area of State Park Lands**

Having attended the February 24<sup>th</sup> public informational meeting at the Dance Palace in Point Reyes Station, I would like to make the following comments:

**1. In the Millerton area, I oppose** providing the upland hike/bike trail and any creation of a parking area on the east side of Highway One to accommodate same. I have no objection to a hiking trail, but to add bikes (which would be mountain bikes) would add the potential for intimidation of, and accidents on, hikers by bikers. The co-use of a trail by hikers and bikers puts the hikers at a serious disadvantage of enjoyment as well as providing the potential for injury. This has been proven again and again on already-existent co-use trails in other areas. The end result is usually that hikers avoid the trail and the bikers own it.

19.1

Further, any parking facility on the east side of Highway One will draw bikers and hikers to drive there. The Highway One corridor from Point Reyes Station to Marshall is already rather dangerous and overused (as described by Marshall residents). Providing a "draw" to non-locals to use the area for bikes would result in increasing the danger and traffic problems on Highway One.

19.2

**2. In the Millerton area, I oppose** adding a restroom at Tomasini Point, although I approve of providing a two-car parking facility there. Adding a restroom will, by necessity, require a much larger parking facility, opening the area to greater use and impact. **I also oppose** improving the restroom at Millerton. I find the restroom there sufficient for the use it gets, and I also think the parking area should be left as is. The present use of the area is

19.3

sufficient and proper and does not need more in any regard.

3. **In the entire Tomales Bay area, I oppose** any campground additions that would solicit anything other than walk-in/drop-off situations that would negate recreational vehicles. The addition of rv tourists to the area, outside of the Olema Campground or Taylor Camp, would reduce the local community support and enjoyment of the area. It is simply not acceptable to the West Marin community, as proven by recent uprisings against county attempts to increase tourism in the area.

**19.4**

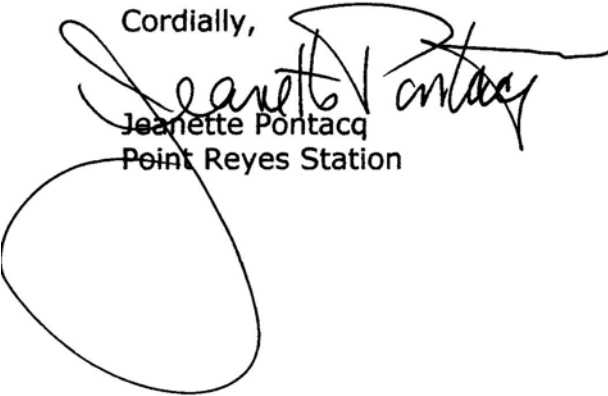
4. **In the Marconi area, I oppose** the addition of a campground and day-use boat launching. I do so in response to the potential increase in the use of Highway One in the area and the negative impact on nearby local residents.

**19.5**

5. Overall, I would suggest to State Park management that discretionary funds in California are non-existent at the moment and for the foreseeable future. Because of the lack of funding possibilities, triage should be done on portions of the presented plan according to support from the local communities. Attempts to superimpose State Park plans against local opposition could easily result in local-community responses in state-wide media outlets. I would prefer to see cooperation between the State Parks and local communities to minimize the impact on the area according to local needs and desires.

**19.6**

Cordially,

  
Jeanette Pontacq  
Point Reyes Station

## *Response to Letter 19*

**Jeanette Marie Pontacq**

**March 10, 2004**

- 19.1** The Department acknowledges commenter's concern with hiker and trail biker conflicts. Please see **Response 18.1** for information about the Department's processes and methods of reducing potential visitor use conflicts.
- 19.2** The General Plan clearly states the Department's preference for using the existing trailhead at Millerton Point if possible. Please refer to **Response 3.17** for more information on the Millerton trail proposals.
- 19.3** Adding a small restroom facility at Tomasini Point will not necessitate a significantly larger parking area. Please see **Response 18.3** for additional discussion of Tomasini Point parking and restroom proposals.
- 19.4** Further site and resource investigations will occur during project-level planning, design and implementation of General Plan proposals, including campgrounds. Please see **Response 18.4** for further discussion of camping in the park.
- 19.5** The Marconi Cove area was acquired by the Department in part to provide bayside recreational opportunities. Please refer to **Response 18.5** for further discussion of Marconi Cove recreational proposals.
- 19.6** Available funding for development of projects does not preclude the formulation of a General Plan for a park. Please see **Response 4.1** for further discussion of budgeting and the General Plan process.

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Post Office Box 399  
Point Reyes Station  
California 94956  
March 12, 2004

**RECEIVED**  
**MAR 15 2004**  
**NORTHERN SERVICE CENTER**

California State Parks, Northern Service Center  
P.O. Box 942896  
Sacramento, CA 942—0001  
ATTN: Bob Hare

Re: General Plan for Tomales Bay State Park

Dear Mr. Hare:

I write as a resident of the area using the park on a day use basis, but also as a Coastwalk guide who has had occasion over the last 15 years to use park facilities as a hike-in camper. I have reviewed your plan and attended one of your information meetings.

For what they are worth, I'd like to impart two reactions to the plan.

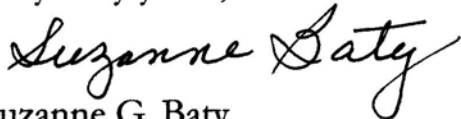
1. Millerton: the idea of a loop trail using both Tomasini Point and the area east of Highway 1 is very appealing and probably would only necessitate minimum change and cause few impact changes upon the area.
2. Heart's Desire: (HD-8) the proposed camp ground would entirely change the feeling and overall quiet design of the park as it is now. I also understand that generator use would be permitted in that area.

**20.1**

A few years ago my husband and I, using a small RV, visited a number of parks throughout California and parts of the West.

We lasted a good part of one year and decided “no more”. The thing that most turned us away was the cheek by jowl location of generator and therefore noise producing camp sites in many of these parks. This was no way to enjoy what might otherwise have been a beautiful place. These are not large places we are considering here and thus the impact is all the more intrusive. I hope you might reconsider this particular development.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Suzanne Baty". The signature is fluid and elegant, with the first name "Suzanne" and the last name "Baty" clearly distinguishable.

Suzanne G. Baty



*Response to Letter 20*

**Suzanne Baty**  
**(Undated)**

- 20.1** The Department will conduct future assessments of potential resource and visitor experience impacts during project-level phases that include planning, design, and implementation of a General Plan proposal. Please refer to **Response 3.3** for revisions to proposals for camping in the Heart's Desire area.

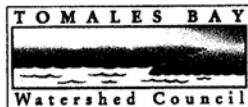
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The Tamales Bay  
Watershed Council

Michael Mery  
Chairman

Neysa King  
Watershed Coordinator

P.O. Box 447  
Pt. Reyes Station, CA 94956  
p: 415.663.9092  
f: 415.663.9094  
neysaking@earthlink.net



March 12, 2004

California State Parks  
Northern Service Center  
Attn: Bob Hare  
PO Box 942896  
Sacramento, CA 94296-0001

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MAR 15 2004

NORTHERN SERVICE CENTER

***Re: Tamales Bay State Park Preliminary General Plan Draft Environmental Impact Report***

Dear Mr. Hare,

I'm writing on behalf of the Tamales Bay Watershed Council (Council) regarding the Tamales Bay State Park Preliminary General Management Plan Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR). The Council is an organization comprised of 29 representatives from local agricultural, environmental, residential and commercial organizations, as well as federal, state and local agency representatives. The Council has been fortunate to have the on-going participation of local State Parks staff over the last 4 years, and is encouraged by the recent involvement of Superintendent Lindberg and planning staff from Sacramento. Through meaningful partnerships and exchange, we will be able to increase the effectiveness of our combined efforts to protect and effectively manage our impacts on Tamales Bay and its watershed.

The planning process that you've embarked upon and the discussion regarding future alternatives for State Park development and management are important to both the Council and the future well being of this area. We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the DEIR, and will address only the references made about the Council in this letter. While the Council is interested in all plans for public land management within the watershed, we will leave specific, detailed comments to our member organizations. We want to recognize your efforts to reinforce the need for inter-agency and community coordination for effective natural and cultural resource management, and hope that in the future we can help to support your need for local input in the State Parks planning process. We feel that to date, our dialog with you about this Plan has been minimal, and we look forward to increased engagement as you move forward with specific studies, assessments and public vetting regarding the specific plans for recreational development and infrastructure modification in Tamales Bay State Park. We also appreciate your cooperation in correctly depicting the future role of the Council and our relationship to State Parks in the DEIR.

1. Page 4 (PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT section): In the past, you did announce your planning effort to the Council but “coordination meetings” are an inaccurate description of our exchange with respect to the Tomales Bay State Park Preliminary General Plan and the DEIR. Based on your participation in Council meetings, the options you have developed and the mitigation measures you propose are likely unfamiliar to most of the Council, and you have provided little detail about specific measures that would be necessary to adequately evaluate the alternatives being considered. Additional engagement and dissemination of information to the Council will be necessary if you want to develop a stronger communication link between our planning efforts.
2. Page 26 (INTER-AGENCY PLANNING COORDINATION section): Again, you have inaccurately described the coordination that occurred between our planning efforts. The development of the Tomales Bay Watershed Stewardship Plan occurred with the participation of local State Parks representatives, and not until adoption was to occur in July 2003 did Superintendent Lindberg join the Council.
3. Page 97 (TOMALES BAY WATERSHED COUNCIL section): The correct reference for the Council’s watershed plan is *The Tomales Bay Watershed Stewardship Plan: A framework for Action* (adopted in July 2003). We are not longer working from a draft document as you have stated here. Additionally, the Council will not be developing regulatory requirements and Best Management Practices to meet federal goals for water quality in the bay. The Council is working on a coordinated, comprehensive water quality monitoring program that includes Tomales Bay and the tributary streams that flow through the watershed; however, as a Council we do not have jurisdiction nor authority to develop or modify regulatory requirements with respect to water quality (or anything else). Through outreach and education, the Council will work to promote the use of best management practices to address water quality and habitat issues.
4. Page 119 (WATER QUALITY, EROSION, AND ESTUARIES section): The Watershed Stewardship Plan is not specific with respect to recommended actions to improve water quality and to restore the environmental integrity of the entire watershed. These are two general goals of the plan and of the Council; however, more specificity and additional monitoring and assessment are necessary if effective recommendations are to be implemented on the ground. State Parks needs to be looking at the natural and cultural resources within its boundaries, while using a watershed approach to managing and protecting these resources. Habitat assessment, water quality monitoring, cultural resource evaluation, and a variety of planning and monitoring tools are needed to direct appropriate management actions for Tomales Bay State Park.

**21.1**

**21.2**

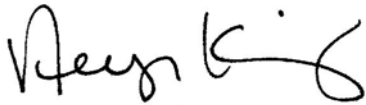
**21.3**

5. Page 214 (paragraph 2): The Stewardship Plan has been completed and was adopted July 2003.

**21.4**

In the future, the Council will continue to provide a venue for coordinated, comprehensive stewardship of Tomales Bay and its watershed. We hope you will continue to participate in the Council, and will take advantage of this opportunity to meaningfully engage local organizations and other agencies in your plans. Clearly, the Council would like to actively support this general plan, but in order to do so we need to be more involved in your planning activities and in the “post-general plan” process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Neysa King', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Neysa King, Watershed Coordinator

## *Response to Letter 21*

**Neysa King, Tomales Bay Watershed Council**

**March 12, 2004**

**21.1** The following paragraph, located on page 24, will be changed as follows:

Public input for this general plan was gathered and stakeholders were informed and involved in a number of ways, including a planning Website, a public scoping meeting, a park visitor survey, and a newsletter. Planned public involvement efforts include a future public meeting to review the plan proposals contained in the Draft General Plan that is distributed for public comment during the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review process and a concluding State Parks Commission Hearing. Two coordination meetings were held with the Tomales Bay Watershed Council, Point Reyes National Seashore, and Marin County concerning their on-going planning efforts. A contact list was developed and added to throughout the planning process.

The following paragraph, located on page 26, will be changed as follows:

The general plan team worked with other public agencies, groups, and individuals to integrate our planning with regional concerns, efforts, trends, and opportunities. The State Park general planning team ~~coordinated the general planning effort with the on-going planning work of~~ participated in two meetings that included representatives of the Tomales Bay Watershed Council, Point Reyes National Seashore, and Marin County in order to help coordinate the Tomales Bay State Park General Plan with the on-going planning work of these other organizations. The development of the *Tomales Bay Watershed Stewardship Plan* occurred with the participation of local State Park representatives.

**21.2** The following paragraph, located on page 97, will be changed as follows:

The Tomales Bay Watershed Council is a group made up of local organizations and landowners, businesses, government agencies, and others dedicated to improving the water quality of Tomales Bay. The bay has not met water quality standards as outlined in the RQCB's Basin Plan and is listed as impaired under the Federal Clean Water Act, section 303(d). The Watershed Council's purpose is to create a management plan to preserve and protect Tomales Bay's water and land resources for sustainable uses by agriculture, aquaculture, business, environmental, recreation, and residential interests. ~~A first draft of a Watershed Stewardship Plan~~ *The Tomales Bay Watershed Stewardship Plan: A Framework for*

~~Action~~ was completed in April 2002 adopted in July 2003. Over the next few years, regulatory requirements and Best Management Practices will be developed to help meet the federal goals for water quality in the bay. The Council is working on a coordinated, comprehensive water quality monitoring program that includes Tomales Bay and tributary streams that flow through the watershed. Through outreach and education, the Council will work to promote the use of best management practices to address water quality and habitat issues.

**21.3** The following paragraph, located on page 119, will be changed as follows:

All of the park's areas, except for the Inverness Area, border on and include the sensitive and dynamic marine resources of Tomales Bay and all of areas of the park lie within the Tomales Bay Watershed. The Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) has designated Tomales Bay as an impaired watershed. To help address this issue, the Tomales Bay Watershed Council has recently completed the *Tomales Bay Watershed Stewardship Plan: A Framework for Action*. ~~to guide actions~~ Two of the Council's general goals ~~are~~ to improve the water quality of Tomales Bay and to restore the environmental integrity of the entire watershed.

The Department thanks commenter for the suggestions on watershed management, habitat assessment, water quality monitoring, cultural resource evaluation in Tomales Bay State Park.

**21.4** The following paragraph, located on page 214, is changed as follows:

The General Plan recommends actions supporting the goals of the regional *Tomales Bay Watershed Stewardship Plan* ~~being~~ completed by the Tomales Bay Watershed Council to improve the water quality of Tomales Bay and to restore the environmental integrity of the entire watershed (see Guideline WAT-10). These actions include monitoring park water resources to ensure the cleanest water possible, and reducing erosion into creeks flowing to the bay. The Department will be monitoring the development of recommended assessments in the Stewardship Plan for the ecological effects of recreational boating on the bay. The effects of boat motors on commercial oyster farming and other natural resources will help evaluate the appropriateness of the General Plan's recommendation for potential motorboat launching at Marconi Cove. In addition, the park currently tests and monitors the west shore beach

waters and the septic systems in these locations, and will continue to do so along with any other recommended water quality monitoring activities (see Guideline WAT-8).



March 10, 2004

State of California Parks  
Northern Service Center  
ATTN: Bob Hare

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MAR 15 2004

NORTHERN SERVICE CENTER

Dear Mr. Hare,

I am writing in regard to the state land north of Marshall, that the state purchased from Hans Angress, twenty five or more years ago for \$500,000. This land was a hay field, now it is over grown with scrub brush. There are many permanent residents who walk daily who could use an area close by. A thousand yards north of the state land is the only access to Tomales Bay, this is used by the wind surfers, with very little parking and no toilet facilities. You could improve the situation by opening up the Angress property. I used to take my grandchildren to the state property and they looked forward to looking under rocks and playing in the bay. It was very nice and the only area north of Marshall to use, until fenced off. I would like others to have the pleasure of this beautiful area and as taxpayers whose monies pay for State owned land we should have public use. Public access is needed north of Marshall.

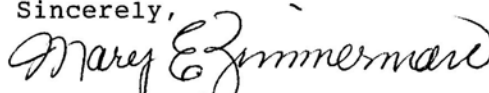
22.1

Suggestions are:

1. OPEN UP LAND WITH A WALKING TRAIL AROUND THE PERIMETER.
2. CAR PARKING ON EAST AND WEST ( NEAR THE BEACH)
3. PICNIC TABLES AND GARBAGE CONTAINER
4. CHEMICAL TOILETS.
5. DAY USE ONLY.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Mary E. Zimmerman

22788 Clarke Road

Marshall, CA. 94940

(415) 663-1217

## *Response to Letter 22*

**Mary E. Zimmerman**

**March 10, 2004**

- 22.1** The Department thanks commenter for the suggestions for developing the North Marshall parcel for public access and use. The language of Guideline NM-1 (Manage for Natural and Open Space Values) permits modest future development for public access and use. The text reads: “Preserve the natural resources and open space character of this property and consider future potential for low-intensity public access and use. Motorists and cyclists traveling along Highway 1 will continue to enjoy the natural vistas of Tomales Bay across the open space of this property. If access and environmental requirements can be satisfied, day-use facilities such as a trail may be considered in the future. The plan supports future consideration of use of this property as a connecting segment of the California Coastal Trail, should that trail be routed to the west of Highway 1 in this area.”



## SIERRA CLUB MARIN GROUP

COASTAL SECTION C/O GORDON BENNETT

Box 3058 San Rafael CA 94912 40 Sunnyside Dr Inverness CA94937  
anfranciscobay.sierraclub.org/marin 415-663-1881 gbatmuirb@aol.com

3/12/2004

RECEIVED

MAR 15 2004

NORTHERN SERVICE CENTER

California State Parks, Northern Service Center  
Attn: Bob Hare  
PO Box 942896, Sacramento, CA 94296-0001

RE: Comments on Tomales Bay State Park General Plan

The Sierra Club, representing its 7,000 Marin County members appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Tomales Bay State Park General Plan. We find that there are three fundamental problems with the Proposed Plan:

- ▶ Confusion between the Department's Mission and the State Park's Purpose
- ▶ Funded Impacts Dependent on Unfunded Mitigations
- ▶ Carrying Capacity is Determined After Development

### Mission vs Purpose

The Department's Mission gives equal balance to "protecting its most valued natural and cultural resources, and creating opportunities for high quality outdoor recreation." However, the Resources Code 5019.53 provides priority to protection of natural and cultural resources: "the purpose of State Parks shall be to preserve outstanding natural, scenic, and cultural values, indigenous aquatic and terrestrial fauna and flora, and the most important examples of ecological regions of California...improvements undertaken within state parks shall be for the purpose of making the areas available for public enjoyment and education in a manner consistent with the preservation of natural, scenic, cultural and ecological values for present and future generations. Improvements may be undertaken for recreational activities...so long as those improvements involved no major modifications of lands, forests or waters. Improvements that do not directly enhance the public's enjoyment of the natural, scenic, cultural, or ecological values of the resource, which are attractions in themselves...shall not be undertaken within state parks." Nevertheless, the Tomales Bay State Park General Plan proposes several recreational development (eg the mountain biking and car camping proposals) which do not conform to the purpose of a State Park and which will become attractions in themselves.

23.1

### **Unfunded Mitigations**

The proposed plan encourages increased visitor use by proposing to develop high impact recreational activities that neither the parks resources nor the State Park Department's budget can sustain. The State Park Department as a whole and Tomales Bay State Park specifically does not have the budget to implement the proposed plan as a whole. Selective implementation of the various proposals can and will result in the park violating its pledge to protect the natural resources.

**23.2**

The plan notes on page 171 "One of the major 'checks' on the maximum level of visitor use of an area is the recommended size of parking lots and the general capacity of other recreational facilities." The concern is that this General Plan allows increased development and thus the removal of this major check. And while the plan admits that its proposed development will require follow-up monitoring, increased management and increased staffing, there is no reasonable expectation, given the current budget crises expected to continue into the foreseeable future, that these mitigations will be funded.

**23.3**

Given the current budget crisis that is expected to continue long into the future, the Sierra Club believes that a more appropriate General Plan would mitigate problems from existing development first. Incremental development of new facilities would only be proposed after problems from existing development have been conclusively demonstrated to have been mitigated.

**23.4**

### **Carrying Capacity**

The carrying capacity is determined by three components: the ecological capacity, the sociological component, and "the ability of the Department to manage resources and visors to mitigate unwanted impacts to resources and visitor experience at the park(pg 172). It is the third of thee components that raises concern. Furthermore, the plan notes that "the specifics of these three components listed above will be determined in post-general plan phases (pg 172). As with the unfunded mitigations above, given the current and foreseeable budget crisis, there is no reasonable expectation that the resources to define the specifics of a carrying capacity will be available in the future.

**23.5**

Furthermore, Tomales Bay Guidelines For Protection and Use (NPS 2001) show roughly constant visitation levels over the past decade, not the projected increase that this General Plan uses as a basis for its development proposals. In fact, the Plan's development proposals themselves will create the demand, rather than demand creating proposed development.

**23.6**

**Site-Specific Comments: Heart's Desire**

Regenerate Bishop Pines (HD-1): Yes

Continue Drive up Access: (HD-2) Yes

Preserve Indian Beach estuary and midden (HD-3): Yes

Restore natural outlet of estuary Redesign picnic (HD-4): Yes, although this alternative requires considerable more information to insure that existing resources are protected.

Formalize car top launching (HD-5) Yes

Redesign Vista Point (HD-6) : Yes, Current restroom sits on midden, adjacent to bay, with leach lines adjacent to stream. Septic needs to be designed for peak, not average use.

Develop group camping at former hike/bike campground (HD-7): No. Instead, restore former hike campground.

Develop 15 unit car-camping (HD-8): No. This area's Management Vision emphasizes the importance of non-mechanized and non-vehicular forms of recreation. Fifteen campsites under current codes would allow for 30 vehicles and 120 people, although these limits are in practice often exceeded at existing State Park Sites. Also, state law permits generators at campgrounds. This proposal has huge impacts to noise, nighttime light, traffic, septic and beach access.

Improve Fee Collection (HD-9): Yes

Maintain overnight security (HD-10): Yes

Continue staff housing (HD-11): Yes

Enhance trail connections to PRNS (HD-12): only if funding for both construction and a permanent endowment for maintenance can be raised from user groups or the private sector.

**Site-Specific Comments: Inverness**

Preserve current watershed values (I-1): Yes, this area is spotted owl habitat

Remove Structures (I-2): Yes

**23.6.1**

**23.7**

**23.8**

**23.9**

**23.9.1**

**23.10**

**23.6.1**

**Site-Specific Comments: Inverness (continued)**

Construct Day use picnic (I-3): No. This area should be managed as a natural area; having geographically separated recreational sites greatly increases management cost and complexity.

**23.11**

Develop trailhead (I-4): No, see above

Coordinate with adjacent landowners (I-5): Yes, after removal of structures, consider land trade or sale similar to that considered for North Marshall to consolidate ownerships and management for natural resource values

**23.11.1**

**Site-Specific Comments: Millerton**

Protect Thomason Point (M-1): Yes

Hike and Bike trail in uplands (M-2) : No. Requires significant investment in bridges etc to avoid impacts to creeks; would result in an isolated mountain bike trail that would become an attraction unto itself, in violation of the State Park Purpose. As an alternative, consider one-way single-track trail to top of uplands that does not generate impacts on the creek.

**23.12**

Improve restrooms (M-3): Yes

**23.12.1**

**Site-Specific Comments: Marconi Cove**

Parking Restrooms, Educational panels, Picnic area (MC-1a): Yes.

Concessions, boat launch, boat trailer parking (MC-1b): No. This is far too extensive development at this small area whose cove is a refuge for avifauna and adjacent to established harbor seal haulouts and oyster farms. Impacts to these resources should be avoided by not proposing development rather than mitigated by post-development monitoring that may never happen.

**23.13**

Campground with 8 walk-in sites (MC-2): No, see above

Remove gas station (MC-3a): Yes. Adapt historic bathhouse (MC-3b): Yes, if coordinated with picnic area; remove if otherwise.

**23.13.1**

Maintain natural area at south (MC-4): Yes, expand to most of Marconi Cove except for picnic

**Site-Specific Comments North Marshall:**

**23.13.1**

Leave in natural state (NM-1): Yes, without trails; this should be maintained in a natural state

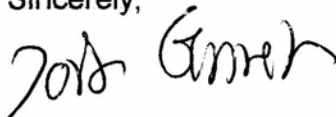
Consider Trade or Sale (NM-2): Yes, Audubon Canyon Ranch is an abutting landowner

**Conclusion:**

**23.14**

For the above reasons, the Sierra Club supports the No Action Alternative or the development of a new Alternative Four, which mitigates problems from existing development first and then proposes incremental new development consistent with the State Park's purpose, but only after problems from existing development have been conclusively demonstrated to have been mitigated.

Sincerely,



Gordon Bennett  
Co-Chair Conservation Committee

## *Response to Letter 23*

**Gordon Bennett, Sierra Club Marin Group**

**March 12, 2004**

**23.1** The General Plan recommends providing recreational opportunities for the people of California while protecting natural, cultural and aesthetic resources at the park. Public Resources Code 5019.53, as the commenter points out, states that “Improvements may be undertaken for recreational activities...so long as those improvements involved no *major* modifications of lands, forests, or waters.” The General Plan is not recommending major modifications of undisturbed natural areas in the park; most of the sites proposed for further facilities development are sites that have been previously disturbed and have no or minimal existing sensitive resources. Potential impacts to undisturbed, sensitive natural resources are subject to numerous General Plan goals and guidelines and Department policies regarding sensitive species and other resource management guidelines that protect sensitive natural and cultural resources. The Environmental Analysis, beginning on page 185 of the General Plan, found that any potential significant impacts to resources from the plan’s proposals would be able to be mitigated. In addition, specific development projects must also comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) by evaluating potential negative environmental impacts and proposing mitigation measures and monitoring where necessary as part of the project.

Please see **Response 9.1** for further information regarding the Department’s commitment to enhance and protect park resources.

**23.2** The park is fully committed to protecting sensitive natural and cultural resources as shown throughout the plan and specifically in the plan’s goals and guidelines. Please see **Response 4.1** for a discussion of park staffing and budgeting issues, and **Response 9.1** for more information regarding the Department’s commitment and processes for protection of the park’s natural resources.

**23.3** Regarding parking lot sizes acting as limits to the maximum level of visitor use in an area, please refer to **Response 15.1**. Carrying capacity is determined by components listed on page 175 of the General Plan: a) the capacities of the resources to accommodate visitor use without unacceptable damage; b) the ability of visitors to enjoy park resources and recreational opportunities without undesirable effects such as a feeling of crowding; and c) the ability of the Department to manage resources and visitors to mitigate unwanted impacts to resources or visitor experience at the park. The General Plan’s Adaptive Management Process, described



on pages 176–179 of the General Plan, proposes a method of evaluating impacts caused by both existing and future facilities development at the park.

Increased monitoring by park staff for negative impacts to resources or visitor experiences would occur in any area in which a development project is implemented in the park. In the initial evaluation phases of a potential project, budgeting and staffing levels are considered for appropriateness of implementation. Please see **Response 4.1** for further information on the subject of budgeting and staffing levels.

- 23.4** The General Plan is a long-range planning document that develops appropriate proposals for the continuation of resource protection and enhancement programs and for the provision of recreational facilities and opportunities for the public. The reduction of current negative impacts to natural and cultural resources is an ongoing effort by the Department funded through programs within the Department's overall budget that are separate from the General Planning function. These efforts consist of identifying and evaluating resource impacts as they occur and developing timely and appropriate responses to those impacts. These may include, for example, specific projects such as erosion control projects on trails and roads to protect water quality, or programs such as the assessment of certain animal species in the park to provide a basis for monitoring the species and to recommend enhancement of suitable habitat for that species.

Please see **Response 16.24** for further information regarding the Department's commitment and processes for protection of the park's natural resources.

- 23.5** Lack of immediate funding for staffing or development projects or programs does not preclude establishing the goals and guidelines necessary to guide potential projects or management programs at the park. The state's budgeting levels for proposed projects fluctuates and the Department should be ready to implement development and management proposals as funding becomes available.

In addition, daily operations, maintenance functions, and ongoing resource management programs, for example, are directed by guidelines contained in a general plan, including those for establishing carrying capacity as proposed on pages 173–179 of the General Plan (the section titled "Visitor Carrying Capacity: the Sustainability of Natural, Cultural, and Recreational Resources and Visitor Experiences"). This section outlines an Adaptive Management Process that is recommended for current and future use by Department staff in establishing carrying capacities at the park.

- 23.6** The General Plan proposals are based on regional and statewide projections of population growth, current park and District recreation demand and potential future demand based on California's population growth projections. Please see **Response 13.2** for further discussion future recreational needs in West Marin and statewide.
- 23.6.1** The Department appreciates the Sierra Club's support for General Plan Guidelines HD-1, HD-2, HD-3, and HD-4. Further investigations and assessments, concerning the proposal to restore the natural outlet of Heart's Desire Creek, will occur during any future implementation phase to protect existing resources.
- 23.7** The Department considered the option of removing the existing Heart's Desire restroom to protect the archeological site it was built upon in the early 1960s, but determined that removal would have more detrimental impact to the site than leaving it where it is. Please refer to **Response 3.1** for more information about text changes to the General Plan regarding the Heart's Desire restroom.
- 23.8** Please see **Response 7.4** regarding further discussion of the former Hike-Bike campground in the Heart's Desire Area.
- Please see **Response 3.2** for changes to the General Plan text regarding adaptation of the former Hike-Bike campground to a group campground.
- 23.9** Please see **Response 3.3** for a description of changes to General Plan text regarding the small campground proposal in the Heart's Desire area. Please see **Responses 3.6, 3.7, 8.7 and 9.11** for information concerning possible impacts of this proposal.
- 23.9.1** The Department appreciates the Sierra Club's support for General Plan Guidelines HD-9, HD-10, and HD-11.
- 23.10** The Department acknowledges the commenter's preferences for the future construction and operation of park trails. The General Plan is a first-tier Environmental Impact Report that does not address future projects in detail. Please see **Responses 7.1 and 8.2** for more information on this type of planning document.
- 23.10.1** The Department appreciates the Sierra Club's support for General Plan Guidelines INV-1 and INV-2.
- 23.11** Thank you for your comments regarding the Inverness Area expressing preference for managing the area as a natural area and your concern over management costs of this area. The Department will carry out further

assessments of site resources and potential visitor experiences for this General Plan proposal as funding becomes available.

**23.11.1** The Department appreciates the Sierra Club's support for General Plan Guideline INV-5 and MIL-1.

**23.12** Recreational facilities such as campgrounds and bicycling trails within the park do not constitute "attractions in themselves" if these facilities are recommended for the explicit purpose of allowing the public to enjoy and learn about the park's natural, cultural and aesthetic resources (while at the same time the Department is protecting sensitive resources). If State Parks did not provide opportunities for the public to enjoy these resources, it would not be fulfilling its mission, part of which is creating the appreciation for these resources that is necessary to sustain support for their continued existence as part of a state park.

Please see **Response 9.1** for further discussion of the Public Resources Code in regard to the Department's mission. Please see **Response 9.23** for a discussion of the Millerton Uplands Trail proposal and its potential impacts to site resources.

**23.12.1** The Department appreciates the Sierra Club's support for General Plan Guidelines MIL-3 and the first part of MC-1 (parking, restrooms, panels, and picnic area).

**23.13** Thank you for your comments regarding the potential development of the Marconi Cove property. After approval of the General Plan and in the event of funding for development of the plan proposals, the Department will conduct further site investigations and evaluate the site for future development, including the appropriate sizes and locations of facilities. Please see **Responses 8.8 and 12.1** for further information regarding the Marconi Cove Area proposals.

**23.13.1** The Department appreciates the Sierra Club's support for General Plan Guidelines MC-3, MC-4, NM-1, and NM-2.

**23.14** A General Plan is a long-range planning document that the Department can utilize to implement appropriate new programs and facilities for the park as funding becomes available. It also addresses current problems and issues in the park and directs, through goals and general guidelines, an approach to resolving these issues. The Department is constantly working to resolve problems in the park through adequate planning, funding, and implementation of specific projects. Please see **Response 23.4** for further information regarding the ongoing efforts of the Department to minimize resource impacts in the park.

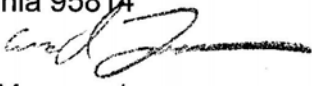
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State of California

# Memorandum

**To :** Mr. Bob Hare  
Department of Parks and Recreation  
Northern Service Center  
One Capital Mall, Suite 500  
Sacramento, California 95814

**Date :** March 18, 2004

**From :** **ERIC J. LARSON**   
Northern California Manager/  
Bays and Estuaries Ecosystem Coordinator  
Marine Region-Belmont

**Subject :** Tomales Bay State Park Preliminary General Plan  
Draft Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) SCH# 2003062074

The California Department of Fish and Game (Department) has reviewed the Preliminary General Plan Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for Tomales Bay State Park. The general plan provides long-term goals, guidelines, and directions for the operation, development, management, interpretation and resource management for this State Park.

The Department has the following concerns, comments, and suggestions which are focused on the waters and aquaculture interests in Tomales Bay.

- |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |             |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Page 27, paragraph 4: The context of commercial shellfish farming in Tomales Bay is unclear. While it is a historical use, Tomales Bay is currently the second largest commercial shellfish growing area in California. The DEIR should note this.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <b>24.1</b> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Page 49, paragraph 5: Please correct the statement that State Parks leases areas for oyster farming. The Department is not aware of any State water bottoms that are leased by State Parks for aquaculture. The Fish and Game Commission has the authority from the State Lands Commission to lease State water bottoms for aquaculture.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <b>24.2</b> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Page 64, paragraph 3: Eelgrass beds do not extend to a depth of 20 feet in any portion of Tomales Bay. The Department conducts extensive eelgrass monitoring on an annual basis in Tomales Bay. East shore eelgrass beds typically extend to a depth of -8 to -10 feet. Depth of eelgrass is controlled by turbidity which limits light penetration.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <b>24.3</b> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Page 64, paragraph 5: References to historically over fished anchovy and sardine fisheries in Tomales and Bodega Bays, and the reference to a live-bait fishery for perch are in error. While it is possible that early twentieth century fishing activity contributed to a reduction of the statewide sardine population, new research has indicated that an ocean cooling event (known as a decadal oscillation) was the likely cause of the historic population decline. It should also be noted that the statewide sardine population has since recovered to its former west coast extent. Anchovies have not been historically over fished locally or</li> </ul> | <b>24.4</b> |

Mr. Bob Hare  
 March 18, 2004  
 Page 2

- statewide. Perch are not taken by commercial fishermen for live-bait; rather, they are taken for human consumption.
- Page 65, paragraph 2: The annual mussel quarantine is for paralytic shellfish poisoning (PSP), not coliform pollution, and extends from May through October. Commercial oysters are not included in the annual quarantine. The commercial shellfish growers and the Department of Health Services monitor shellfish throughout the year for both PSP and coliform bacteria. Closures due to coliform typically occur during the winter wet weather months and relate to rainfall amounts in the watershed. **24.5**
- Page 81, paragraph 5: Tomales Bay Oyster Company is just one of six shellfish growers in Tomales Bay. Over four million oysters, with a value of over two million dollars, are produced annually by these growers. **24.6**
- Page 85, paragraph 5: Marconi Cove is adjacent to a ten acre State water bottom shellfish culture lease. Currently, Cove Mussel Company holds the lease. **24.7**
- Page 97, paragraph 2: The Department does not have authority to lease State water bottoms. The California Fish and Game Commission has been given the authority from the State Lands Commission to lease State water bottoms for aquaculture. The Department does, however, oversee and manage aquaculture on these leases. The Department, also, manages and sets the annual harvest quota for the commercial Pacific herring gillnet fishery in Tomales Bay. Much of the commercial fishing occurs in waters adjacent to the State Park lands on the east shore of Tomales Bay. **24.8**
- Page 103, paragraph 2: On the east side of the Bay, five of the six commercial shellfish growers in Tomales Bay lease State water bottoms from the Fish and Game Commission adjacent to State Park land (see attached map). Tomales Bay Oyster Company leases 156 acres. To the north and adjacent to Tomales Bay Oyster Company, Hog Island Oyster Company, Marin Oyster Company, and Pt. Reyes Oyster Company each lease 25 acre parcels. Cove Mussel Company leases a 10 acre parcel in the southern end of Marconi Cove. These State water bottom leases comprise 47 percent of the total Tomales Bay aquaculture acreage. **24.9**
- Page 126 Watershed and Water Quality: Watershed and water quality goals should include Tomales Bay waters. The 1993 Shellfish Protection Act created a Technical Advisory Committee (still active) to look for methods to remediate watershed water quality impacts to Tomales Bay which result in shellfish harvest closures of greater than 30 days per year. Estuarine water quality standards for commercial shellfish harvest are higher than those required for recreational uses according to the San Francisco Regional Water Quality Control Board Basin Plan for Tomales Bay. **24.10**
- Page 127, WAT-7: This guideline needs to include "Bay water quality" in addition to surface and groundwater quality. **24.11**
- Page 133, WIL-9: The language of this guideline should include "improve aquatic habitats in the watershed and in Tomales Bay through the reduction of erosion". **24.12**

Mr, Bob Hare  
March 18, 2004  
Page 3

- |                                                                                                                                                                                               |              |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| • Page 147, REC-4: The DEIR should consider existing uses, such as adjacent State water bottom leases for aquaculture, when evaluating watercraft access points on Tomales Bay.               | <b>24.13</b> |
| • Page 158, COM-5: The DEIR should add commercial aquaculture to the list of issues.                                                                                                          | <b>24.14</b> |
| • Page 167, Marconi Cove: Boating and camping facilities in Marconi Cove should be designed with respect to existing State water bottom leases utilized for commercial shellfish aquaculture. | <b>24.15</b> |

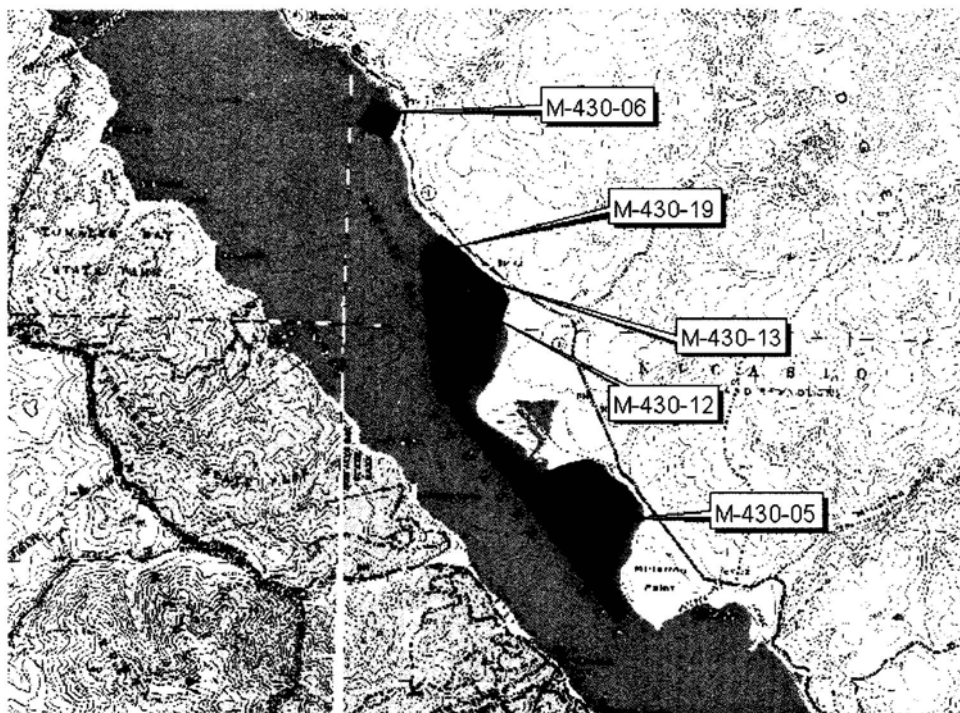
Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Tomales Bay State Park Preliminary General Plan Draft Environmental Impact Report. As always, Department personnel are available to discuss our concerns, comments, and recommendations in greater detail. To arrange for discussion, please contact Ms. Vicki Frey, Environmental Scientist, California Department of Fish and Game, 619 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Eureka, CA 95501, telephone (707) 445-7830 or Mr. Tom Moore, Associate Marine Biologist, P.O. Box 1560, Bodega Bay, CA 94923, telephone (707) 875-4261.

Attachment

cc: Ms. Vicki Frey  
Department of Fish and Game  
Eureka, California

Mr. Tom Moore  
Department of Fish and Game  
Bodega Bay, California

## Tomales Bay Aquaculture Inner Bay Leases



M-430-05 Tomales Bay Oyster Co.  
M-430-12 Hog Island Oyster Co.  
M-430-13 Pt. Reyes Oyster Co.  
M-430-19 Marin Oyster Co.  
M-430-06 Cove Mussel Co.





## *Response to Letter 24*

**Eric J. Larson, California Department of Fish and Game**

**March 18, 2004**

- 24.1** The Department thanks you for your comment on commercial shellfish farming in Tomales. The following paragraph, located on page 30, will be changed as follows:

Acquired from the mid 1970's to 2002, many of the east shore properties are relatively recent additions to the park. ~~Historic land~~ Land use associated with these parcels has included ranching and shellfish farming. These historic land uses combined with harsher environmental conditions and the general lack of recreational facilities has led to minimal public use at these locations. Current land use occurring on these parcels includes wildlife viewing, picnicking, and fishing. The highway can be a source of noise, but a visitor to these parcels is frequently treated to spectacular vistas of the bay and the winds, fogs, and sunlight that cross it. In the upper areas of the parcels east of the highway, in clear conditions, the whole bay setting can be seen and visitors can experience a sense of the expansiveness of the region and its history.

- 24.2** The Department thanks you for your comment on oyster farming leases. The following paragraph, located on page 52, will be changed as follows:

No known sources of mercury contamination originate from State Park property or from drainages that pass through State Park property. High mercury levels are a result of old mining operations in the Walker Creek drainage. The resulting effects of mercury contamination are widespread within Tomales Bay. Not only is commercial and sports fishing effected, but studies indicate evidence of unusual levels of mercury throughout the food chain such as the leopard sharks, bat rays, and diving ducks which feed on shellfish and crabs. The California Department of Health Services (per March 15, 2004 letter) states that they have no knowledge that commercial shellfish in Tomales Bay are contaminated with mercury at high enough levels to warrant human health advisories such as those issued by the Department of Fish and Game for the consumption specific fish species. ~~State Parks does lease portions of the bay for oyster farming.~~

- 24.3** The Department thanks you for your comment on eelgrass beds. The following paragraph, located on page 67, will be changed as follows:

Eel grass beds occur from low tide to a depth of ~~20~~ 8-10 feet, and are located off Millerton Point and Heart's Desire Beach. Submerged plants form a complex habitat for many invertebrates, fish, birds, and marine mammals.

- 24.4** The Department thanks you for your comment on the historical fish harvest in Tomales Bay. The following paragraph, located on page 67, will be changed as follows:

Tomales Bay once supported large coho salmon and steelhead trout fisheries. These are now closed (except for the catch and release of steelhead in Walker Creek). The current primary commercial fishery in Tomales Bay is Pacific herring (*Clupea pallasii*). The modern herring fishery is almost exclusively for the Japanese herring roe market. Smaller commercial fisheries in Tomales Bay include halibut, perch, and live-bait. A few commercial fishermen occasionally take perch, anchovies for live-bait and sardines for sport fishing operations in Bodega Bay. ~~The anchovy and sardine fisheries were historically overfished and are no longer the large market fisheries of days past.~~

- 24.5** The Department thanks you for your comment on mussel quarantine in Tomales Bay. The following paragraph, located on page 68, will be changed as follows:

Clamming, while not as productive as in historic times, is still a popular recreational activity. The horseneck (gaper clam) is still a favorite for clam digging. Washington clams were once found in the park in large numbers. It is thought that the population was all but destroyed by storm events in 1982 that deposited large amounts of sediment on beaches where they were once found. Mussels are also harvested by park users. ~~A shell fish advisory is issued every year both in the summer and winter when mussels and oysters should not be eaten due to high fecal coliform bacterial levels or other disease risks from water pollution.~~ An annual mussel quarantine for paralytic shellfish poisoning (PSP) is put into effect from May to October. Commercial oysters are not included in the annual PSP quarantine. The commercial shellfish growers and the Department of Health Services monitor shellfish throughout the year for both PSP and coliform bacteria. Commercial oyster closures due to coliform are typically during the winter wet weather months and relate to rainfall amounts in the watershed.

- 24.6** The Department thanks you for your comment on the shellfish growers of Tomales Bay. The following paragraph, located on page 84, will be changed as follows:

Mariculture, the cultivation of seafood, is a fast-growing sector of U.S. agriculture. ~~About a half dozen~~ Six West Marin companies annually produce about 20 percent of California's commercial oyster crop, despite problems with juvenile seed mortality and water quality. Over four million oysters, with a value of over \$2 million, are produced annually by these growers. The Tomales Bay Oyster Company, one of these six West Marin companies, evolved from a San Francisco Bay company founded in 1909. The company moved from San Francisco Bay because of water pollution and set up business in West Marin where railroads transported the harvest to market. Today the company produces about a quarter million oysters each year.

- 24.7** The Department thanks you for your comment on the shellfish culture lease. The following paragraph, located on page 89, will be changed as follows:

The bath-house, a small frame building measuring 30' x 14', sits approximately thirty feet west of Highway 1 amid Eucalyptus trees. The Marin County assessor's office dates this house to 1920. A historic photograph from the Jack Mason Museum in Inverness shows the building set against a background of the (apparently newly-built and sparsely vegetated) American Marconi Company facilities, which were constructed in 1913-14. The bathhouse's construction, the drop siding, and the post and pier foundation are typical of construction from the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century. This small box-like building is representative of the many small fisherman houses that lined the bay next to the water's edge. Marconi Cove is adjacent to a ten acre state water bottom shellfish culture lease. Currently, Cove Mussel Company holds the lease.

- 24.8** The Department thanks you for your comment on shellfish culture leasing authority. The following paragraph, located on page 100, will be changed as follows:

Any project that involves work within a streambed or stream banks of any permanent or intermittent stream requires a permit from the California Department of Fish and Game under Section 1601 (i.e., a Streambed

Alteration Agreement) of the Fish and Game Code. A Streambed Alteration Agreement is also needed for any project that will: divert, obstruct, or change the natural flow of any river, stream, or lake; use materials from a streambed; or result in the

disposal or deposition of debris, waste, or other material containing crumbled, flaked, or ground pavement where it can pass into any river, stream, or lake. ~~The California Department of Fish and Game leases parcels on the bottom of Tomales Bay to aquacultural concerns, and oversees herring fishing in the bay.~~ The California Fish and Game Commission has the authority from the State Lands Commission to lease state water bottoms for aquaculture. The Department of Fish and Game oversees and manages aquaculture on these leases and manages and sets the annual harvest quota for the commercial Pacific Herring gillnet fishery in Tomales Bay. Much of the commercial fishing occurs in waters adjacent to the State Park lands on the east shore.

- 24.9** The Department thanks you for your comment on the shellfish growers of Tomales Bay. The following paragraph, located on page 106, will be changed as follows:

~~On the east side of the bay, several oyster companies own portions of the shore and lease bay bottom parcels from the California Department of Fish and Game for their operations. The Tomales Bay Oyster Company owns the shoreline between Millerton and Tomasini Points and leases the bottom of the bay off that parcel. The Hog Island Oyster Company, based north of the community of Marshall, leases a bay bottom parcel off the northern end of Tomasini Point. Another oyster company leases a portion of the bottom of the bay off the southern end of Marconi Cove from the Department of Fish and Game.~~ On the east side of the bay, five of the six commercial shellfish growers in Tomales Bay lease state water bottoms from the Fish and Game Commission adjacent to state park land. Tomales Bay Oyster Company leases 156 acres. To the north and adjacent to Tomales Bay Oyster Company, Hog Island Oyster Company, Marin Oyster Company, and Pt. Reyes Oyster Company each lease 25 acre parcels. Cove Mussel Company leases a 10 acre parcel in the southern end of Marconi Cove. These state water bottom leases comprise 47 percent of the total Tomales Bay aquaculture acreage.

- 24.10** The Department thanks you for your comment on watershed and water quality. The following paragraph, located on page 129, will be changed as follows:

Promote healthy watershed processes and high quality waters in the park, ~~and~~ in the Tomales Bay Watershed, and in Tomales Bay itself in cooperation with other agencies and the local community.

- 24.11** The Department thanks you for your comment on Guideline WAT-7. Please refer to **Response 8.8** for text revisions pertinent to this comment.

- 24.12** The Department thanks you for your comment on Guideline WIL-9. Guideline, WIL-9, will be changed as follows:

Improve aquatic habitats in the watershed and in Tomales Bay through the reduction of erosion.

- 24.13** The Department thanks you for your comment on Guideline REC-4. Please refer to **Response 8.8** for text revisions pertinent to this comment.

- 24.14** The Department thanks you for your comment on Guideline COM-5. Please refer to **Response 3.10** for text revisions pertinent to this comment.

- 24.15** The Department thanks you for your comment on Marconi Cove recreation facilities proposals. Please refer to **Response 8.8** for text revisions pertinent to this comment.

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**United States Department of the Interior**

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
Point Reyes National Seashore  
Point Reyes Station, California 94956

IN REPLY REFER TO:

March 12, 2004

**RECEIVED  
MAR 17 2004  
NORTHERN SERVICE CENTER**

Bob Hare  
Department of Parks and Recreation  
Northern Service Center  
P.O. Box 942896  
Sacramento, CA 94296-0001

RE: Tomales Bay State Park Preliminary General Plan and EIR

Dear Bob,

Thanks you for the opportunity to review and comment on the Preliminary General Plan and Draft EIR for Tomales Bay State Park. Please find our comments attached at the end of this letter. Following our comments is a summary report on "Endangered Butterfly Surveys of Tomales Bay Area State Parks" that may be useful as well.

Both Point Reyes National Seashore and Golden Gate National Recreation Area are intent on providing sound stewardship, management, conservation and public recreation in the Tomales Bay watershed. By working with partners, such as California State Parks, we can help ensure that Tomales Bay remains a valuable place for both wildlife and recreation.

For additional information, please contact Dawn Adams, 415-464-5202.

Sincerely,

Don Neubacher  
Superintendent

Enclosures

RECEIVED

MAR 17 2004

NORTHERN SERVICE CENTER

**NPS / Point Reyes National Seashore Recommended Management Actions for Heart's Desire**

**NPS COMMENTS ON PROPOSED FACILITY CHANGES:**

**1. Convert outdoor storage area to 15 site drive-in campground.**

- The introduction of more camping facilities to the park has the potential to affect the nesting northern spotted owls in the area. A pair of owls have nested 6 of the last 7 years within 0.5 miles of Heart's Desire parking area. Introduction of camping sites would require extensive clearing to reduce wildfire hazards and this would further reduce owl habitat for nesting and foraging. Dusky-footed woodrat nests could be affected by removal or habitat alteration and woodrats are the primary food item of spotted owls in Marin County. In addition, camping and developed areas are well known for attracting corvid birds such as ravens. These birds prey on the eggs and chicks of spotted owls and other nesting birds. Expanding camping likely will increase the occurrence of ravens.

**25.1**

- Adequate septic facilities would need to be upgraded. The existing restroom facilities do not appear to be able to support the current level of public use and are situated close to shore. No water quality monitoring data for the Heart's Desire area are presented in this plan. Heart's Desire was tested weekly from April 1-Oct. 28 in 2003. On three occasions in October, water quality exceeded the contact-recreation criteria for E.coli and/or Enterococcus.

**25.2**

**2. Redesigning the picnic area**

- Any redesign of picnic areas should take into account where nesting and roosting spotted owls occur. Additionally, placement of picnic areas should avoid dusky-footed woodrat nests and nests should be preserved since woodrats are the primary food item of spotted owls in Marin County.

**25.3**

**3. Trail connections from Hearts Desire area to Point Reyes National Seashore.**

- Although this is an important consideration in providing linkages with the other protected areas in Point Reyes, the park should exercise caution in the placement of the trails and how the trails are used.

**25.4**



**NPS COMMENTS ON MAJOR RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT ACTIONS  
PROPOSED BY STATE PARKS:**

1. **Restore natural outlet of estuary.** Restoration of estuaries along Tomales Bay would contribute to the overall restoration efforts of Tomales Bay.
2. **Restore regeneration of Jepson Grove bishop pines.** This effort is important because the grove and surrounding forest is senescent and there is little regeneration.
3. **Area beaches for Indian, Shell and Pebble will remain walk in.** This will ensure that resource values are preserved and limit human impact.

**ADDITIONAL NPS RECOMMENDATIONS**

- |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |             |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| 1. <b>Provide an alternative to drive-in camping facilities at Hearts Desire.</b> These facilities would disturb native nesting species such as spotted owls, attract nuisance predators such as ravens, elevate noise levels, affect water quality, introduce light sources which would reduce natural darkness in the area, and increase wildfire danger. | <b>25.5</b> |
| 2. <b>Provide map with water sources.</b> All riparian and wetland areas require elevated protection because of associated sensitive plant and animal species. The NPS would like to see the plan reflect this.                                                                                                                                             | <b>25.6</b> |
| 3. <b>Trail use of Hearts Desire area</b> proposed to connect with Seashore trails should be closely coordinated with NPS to avoid conflicts with Seashore designations.                                                                                                                                                                                    | <b>25.7</b> |

## *Response to Letter 25*

**Don Neubacher, Point Reyes National Seashore**

**March 12, 2004**

- 25.1** The Department thanks you for your comment on the drive-in camping proposal. Please refer to **Responses 3.3, 7.3, and 9.6** for more information regarding this campground proposal.
- 25.2** The Department thanks you for your comment on the restroom at Heart's Desire Beach. Please refer to **Response 3.1** for text changes to the General Plan regarding the restroom.
- 25.3** The Department thanks you for your comment on spotted owls and dusky-footed woodrats. Future locations of potential projects, including redesign of picnic areas and placement of picnic tables, will be required to go through an evaluation of potential impacts to natural and cultural resources in the specific project area. Please see **Response 7.1** for more information on this subject.
- 25.4** The Department will coordinate with the National Park Service to design, maintain, and manage any trail connections that might be mutually supported between Tomales Bay State Park and the Point Reyes National Seashore or the Golden Gate National Recreation Area.
- 25.5** The Department thanks you for your comment on the drive-in camping proposal and alternatives. Please refer to **Responses 3.3, 7.3, and 9.6** for further discussion of the proposed drive-in campground in the Heart's Desire Area.
- 25.6** The Department thanks you for your comment on riparian and wetland area mapping. Please refer to **Response 9.18**.
- 25.7** The Department thanks you for your comment on potential trail connections between State Parks and National Park Service lands. Please refer to **Response 25.4**.

# Tomales Bay Association

P.O. Box 369



Pt. Reyes Station, California 94956



12 March 2004

To: Bob Hare, Northern Service Center  
California State Parks  
Northern Service Center  
PO Box 942896  
Sacramento, CA 94296-0001  
California State Parks  
(916) 445-8911

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MAR 18 2004

NORTHERN SERVICE CENTER

## COMMENTS REGARDING TOMALES BAY STATE PARK GENERAL PLAN AND EIR:

Dear Mr. Hare

We would like to make some preliminary comments on the proposals for resource enhancement and park facilities for Tomales Bay State Park. We do not believe that the options listed are sufficient to express the diversity of opinion in general and do not protect certain areas sufficiently. We encourage your department to consider both environmental sensitivities and efficacy of proposals. We also believe that it would be advisable to slow down the decision process due to new information and ideas that have come forth through the public process and need to be evaluated for both impact and efficacy of completion.

26.1

1. We support the concept of restoring the natural outlet of the estuary at heart's desire beach, however, we are concerned that any reconfiguration of the parking lot and the channel in question could have adverse impacts on the existing red-legged frogs which have been found there. Furthermore, the toilet/shower facilities in this area would either have to be moved or the septic system redesigned to be pump-out because the leachfield is in such close proximity to the creek, and would be a greater potential vector if the culvert were eliminated.

26.2

2. We strongly suggest the re-inception of the walk / bike-in campsite, and discourage the proposed drive-in campground as it would be more impactful, because of increased numbers of cars, commensurate noise from generators as well as car traffic, and because it would cater to a group of people who already have access to facilities in the system. The hike in camp was quite popular and had minimal impact and maximum aesthetical benefits. Please establish this as a viable option.

26.3

3. The group campsite should be relocated in an area of lesser sensitivity, away from the cliffs would be advisable. Daytime use would be acceptable for groups, but overnight would likely be more impactful of the peace and quiet that is enjoyed by the inhabitants who live on the bay. (e.g. native biota)

26.4

4. We support the undeveloped walk-in for Indian, Pebble, and Shell beaches.

5. Preserving watershed, viewshed and habitat values of Inverness ridge is of high value, and the area should not be advertised. We encourage the state to either deed the lands within the watershed to the Inverness Public Utility District or keep these watershed lands in their natural state, with as little improvements as possible.

26.5

6. We are doubtful of the efficacy of introducing additional picnic area, nature and other trails or any other improvements in the Dream Farm Creek area. This stream is an important water collection source for the nearby community, and Sir Francis Drake Blvd has problems with site-distance and traffic accidents. We encourage leaving this area undeveloped for watershed, viewshed and habitat values.

26.6

Continuing for the east side of Tomales Bay:

7. We are amenable to improvements at Marconi Cove, provided that the East Shore Planning Group has fundamental input as to extent of the facilities, and that the number of campsites does not exceed the bicycle/boater purposes. **26.7**
8. We discourage any increased or improved parking at Tomasini Point, as this area does not need additional human impact. We do support, however, the realignment of the trail to protect sensitive species. We also encourage development of an upland trail to connect with the upland new acquisitions to the parklands. **26.8**
9. We support Millerton Point improvements, as these facilities already exist. We note that in undergoing any improvements, in all areas, that the minimum 100-foot Stream Conservation Area protections, as mandated by the Local Coastal Program Unit II, need to be adhered to. (i.e., No new facilities within 100 feet of any stream or watercourse, including structures, toilets, leachfields and parking lots.) **26.9**
- Finally, as a general comment, we believe that the carrying capacity, both in terms of human impacts on sensitive species and their habitat, and on the quality of visitor experience, needs to be evaluated before building additional infrastructure to encourage more visitation and use. **26.10**

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,



Kenneth J. Fox, President.

## *Response to Letter 26*

**Kenneth J. Fox, Tomales Bay Association**

**March 12, 2004**

- 26.1** The Department thanks you for your comment on the public involvement for this plan. The Department solicited a wide diversity of concerns, comments, and ideas from the public during the development of planning proposals for the park.

The General Plan process provided opportunity for public involvement, such as the two public meetings at Point Reyes Station (the scoping meeting and the CEQA workshop), two park visitor surveys, a newsletter, and a website. Please see pages 24-26 in the General Plan for details on the public involvement process.

The Plan section of the General Plan contains numerous goals and guidelines that reinforce the Department's priority to enhance and protect the park's resources. Goals and guidelines discussed in the plan include the preparation of a various resource management plans, such as watershed and vegetation management plans, (pp. 130,133), wildlife management assessments and Surveys (p. 138), and Cultural Resources assessments and management plans (p. 140). Please refer to **Response 9.1** for a further listing of General Plan goals and guidelines that support the park's resources, and **Response 8.2** for more information on first tier planning.

- 26.2** The General Plan establishes resource restoration goals for sites (such as the outlet of the creek flowing into Heart's Desire Beach). The Department will conduct at the time of implementation of these proposals necessary and appropriate evaluations of resources, such as biological and wetland surveys and assessments (including the red-legged frog) to determine the appropriate level and type of restoration for that site.

Please refer to **Response 3.1** for text revisions pertinent to the comment on the restroom at Heart's Desire Beach.

- 26.3** The Department thanks you for your comment on the former "Hike-Bike" campground. Please refer to **Responses 7.4, 3.2, 3.4, 3.5, and 3.8** for more information regarding camping in the park.

- 26.4** The group campground will be designed within the "footprint" of the existing developed "Hike-Bike" campground site and will be managed to protect wildlife species and their habitat. Please refer to **Response 3.2** for text changes regarding the conversion of the former "Hike-Bike" campground to a group campground.

- 26.5** The Department thanks you for your comment on the Department's Inverness Ridge lands. Please refer to **Response 3.15** for further discussion of inter-agency issues in the Inverness Area.
- 26.6** The Department thanks you for your comment on the Dream Farm property. Please refer to **Responses 17.2 and 17.3** for further discussion of future design and management of this area.
- 26.7** The Department thanks you for your comment on Marconi Cove. The number of campsites will be limited to the approximately eight sites stipulated in Guideline MC-2 on page 171.
- 26.8** The Department acknowledges commenter's preference for not upgrading parking facilities at the Tomasini Point Trailhead.
- 26.9** The Department will follow applicable regulations regarding development setbacks from wetland areas.
- 26.10** The General Plan is a first-tier environmental document that proposes facilities and programs for the park based on existing resource documentation, input from other agencies and the general public, and the professional judgment of its staff. Future specific projects will be subject to further environmental review and evaluation and carrying capacity surveying for facility development on a specific site. Please see **Responses 7.1 and 8.2** for further information on this subject.

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

111 GRAND AVENUE  
P. O. BOX 23660  
OAKLAND, CA 94623-0660  
PHONE (510) 286-5505  
FAX (510) 286-5513  
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March 15, 2004

MRN-1-29.33  
MRN001144  
SCH# 2003062074

Mr. Bob Hare  
California State Parks  
Northern Service Center  
P.O. Box 942896  
Sacramento, CA 94296-0001

Dear Mr. Hare:

**Tomales Bay State Park General Plan – Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR)**

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Department) in the environmental review process for the proposed plan. Based upon the information provided in the DEIR we have the following comments to offer:

Encroachment within State Right-of-Way

As indicated on page 97, an encroachment permit from the Department will be required for any work or traffic control within State Route 1 right-of-way (ROW). To apply for an encroachment permit, submit a completed encroachment permit application, environmental documentation, and five (5) sets of plans (in metric units) which clearly indicate State ROW to the following address:

**27.1**

Mr. Sean Nozzari, District Office Chief  
Office of Permits  
California Department of Transportation, District 04  
P. O. Box 23660  
Oakland, Ca 94623-0660

Future Environmental Review

We would like the opportunity to review any future tiered environmental documents and traffic analyses to ensure that any impacts to SR 1 are fully mitigated. In addition, please provide a copy for our review of the Roads and Trails Management Plan mentioned on page 47 of the DEIR, when it becomes available.

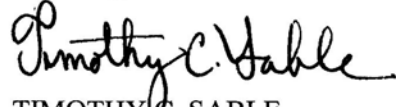
**27.2**

*"Caltrans improves mobility across California"*

Mr. Bob Hare/ California State Parks  
March 15, 2004  
Page 2

Should you require further information or have any questions regarding this letter, please call Maija Cottle of my staff at (510) 286-5737.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Timothy C. Sable". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'T'.

TIMOTHY C. SABLE  
District Branch Chief  
IGR/CEQA

c: State Clearinghouse

*"Caltrans improves mobility across California"*



*Response to Letter 27*

**Timothy C. Sable, California Department of Transportation**

**March 15, 2004**

- 27.1** The Department thanks you for your comment on Encroachment within State Right-of-Way issues. The Department will work closely with the California Department of Transportation on any Encroachment within State Right-of-Way issues that arise in any of the second tier development proposals for the park that may come in the future.
- 27.2** The Department thanks you for your comment on review opportunities of future tiered environmental documents and traffic analyses. The Department will provide to the California Department of Transportation environmental documents and traffic analyses regarding SR 1 and a copy of the Roads and Trails Management Plan when it becomes available.

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State of California—Health and Human Services Agency  
Department of Health Services

**LETTER  
#28**



ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGI  
Governor

**RECEIVED**

**MAR 18 2004**

**NORTHERN SERVICE CENTER**

March 15, 2004

Mr. Bob Hare  
Northern Service Center  
California State Parks  
P.O. Box 942896  
Sacramento, CA 94296-0001

Dear Mr. Hare:

This letter is written in response to the Tomales Bay State Parks Preliminary General Plan Draft Environmental Impact Report.

The following are comments from my review:

1. East Shore Areas (Page 27), The section discusses "shellfish farming" is if it were a historic enterprise and not a present day aquaculture activity in the bay. Please note that there are currently six certified active commercial shellfish harvesters in Tomales Bay, with a combined aquaculture lease area of 483 acres (Tomales Bay Oyster Company, Cove Mussel Company, Hog Island Oyster Company, Point Reyes Oyster Company, Marin Oyster Company, and Charles Friend Oyster Company). All active commercial growers in Tomales Bay operate on eastern shoreline leases granted by the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG).

**28.1**

2. Hydrology and Water Resources (Page 46), The section mentions shellfish can be effected by water quality but does not go into detail as to how shellfish may be effected and to what extent. One example that can be used to illustrate the extent and effect water quality has on shellfish could be recreational boating. Boaters contribute to pollution if they dump raw sewage into the Bay. A single overboard discharge of human waste can be detected in one square mile area of shallow enclosed water. A single person excretes two billion fecal coliform bacteria in one day. It would take 59 million gallons of clean water to dilute the bacteria a single person excretes in one day to safe levels for shellfish waters or water contact standards (1997 NSSP). Disease-causing organisms found in human waste can include Norwalk-like viruses, hepatitis viruses, *E. coli* (a fecal coliform species) and other enteric (intestinal origin) pathogens (2001 MMWR). Some bacteria are a natural component of marine and aquatic food webs, but human activities can add pathogenic (disease-causing) bacteria and viruses to the Bay waters. Certain types of bacteria pose a risk to public health from water contact activities or consumption of shellfish. Fecal coliform bacteria are the indicator species used to determine water quality in shellfish growing waters. Shellfish have the ability to ingest and concentrate

**28.2**

850 Marina Bay Parkway, MS G165  
Richmond, CA 94804  
(510) 412-4635, Fax (510) 412-4637  
[www.dhs.ca.gov](http://www.dhs.ca.gov)

March 15, 2004  
Page 2

pathogenic bacteria and viruses from surrounding waters and pass them to humans. In May 1998, an illness outbreak involving at least 171 people occurred that was associated with the consumption of raw oysters from Tomales Bay. The cause of the illness was determined to be a Norwalk-like virus. The only source for this virus is human sewage. The California Department of Health Services (DHS) has determined that the most likely source of human sewage contamination to Tomales Bay would be from an overboard discharge, improper waste handling by a camper on the west shoreline of Tomales Bay, or a discharge from an onsite sewage disposal system. Because of the risk of human illness due to sewage discharges into Tomales Bay all boaters are encouraged to dispose of onboard sewage at shore-based facilities (portable toilets, pump stations).

3. Water quality Section (Page 49), the section on Mercury implies that shellfish may be contaminated with mercury at high enough levels as to warrant a public health advisory. DHS has no knowledge that commercial shellfish in Tomales Bay is contaminated with mercury at high enough levels that warrant and advisory such as one that was issued by the DFG for specific fish species. In addition, DHS is unaware that State Parks issues Shellfish leases. It is the understanding of DHS that shellfish leases in Tomales Bay are all issued by DFG. If State Parks issues shellfish leases please provide us with the location of the leases and the names of companies occupying these leases.

**28.3**

4. Water Quality Section (Page 50), the section on water quality monitoring incorrectly identifies the State Mussel Watch Program as the only agency, which is responsible for monitoring water and shellfish quality of commercial shellfish growing areas in Tomales Bay. The DHS Preharvest Shellfish Program is the only agency responsible for such monitoring activities of both shellfish and shellfish growing water quality in commercial shellfish growing areas.

**28.4**

In addition, to the previous comments this letter is a follow-up to our letter dated June 12, 2003 addressed to you. DHS continues to have several concerns for the Marconi Cove area centered on the Certified Shellfish grower, Cove Mussel Company, which occupies the Department of Fish and Game Lease M-430-06 in Marconi Cove. This lease currently has excellent water quality relative to fecal coliform bacteria. Fecal Coliform is the parameter the commercial shellfish industry is regulated by. The most recent Triennial Sanitary Survey Update Report 2002-2003 (provided to you in the June letter), which represents 30 samples over a three-year period for water quality station #6 in Marconi Cove, reported that the geometric mean for fecal coliform was 2.6/100ml Most Probable Number (MPN) and 6.6/100ml MPN for the 90th percentile. This value cannot exceed 14/100 ml for shellfish growing waters within the *approved* classification. The 90th percentile value cannot exceed 43 for shellfish growing waters within the *Approved* or *Conditionally Approved* classification. The growing area in Marconi Cove is a "*Conditionally Approved*" growing area.

**28.5**

DHS is concerned that any increase in activities proposed in your plan may jeopardize the current classification for Marconi Cove and other growing areas along the East Shore of Tomales Bay. DHS is looking forward to working with State Parks in developing safe and compatible recreation opportunities for Tomales Bay with respect to shellfish growing areas and public health and would like to comment on any proposed actives by State Parks in Tomales Bay.

## *Response to Letter 28*

**A. Marc Commandatore, California Department of Health Services  
March 15, 2004**

- 28.1** The Department thanks you for your information on current active shellfish harvesters in Tomales Bay. Please refer to **Response 24.1** for text revisions pertinent to this comment.
- 28.2** The Department thanks you for your comment on hydrology and water resources. The following paragraph, located on page 52, will be changed as follows:

The contributing factors involved in elevated levels of pathogens introduced to the waters of Tomales Bay are substandard or failing septic systems, agricultural wastes, boating and other recreational uses, urban runoff, and natural populations of wildlife (primarily large numbers of migrating and resident birds). Some bacteria are a natural component of marine and aquatic food webs, but human activities can add pathogenic bacteria and viruses to Tomales Bay waters. Certain types of bacteria pose a risk to public health from water contact activities or consumption of shellfish. Fecal coliform bacteria are the indicator species used to determine water quality in shellfish growing waters like Tomales Bay. Shellfish have the ability to ingest and concentrate pathogenic bacteria and viruses from surrounding waters and pass them to humans. Because of the risk of human illness due to sewage discharges into Tomales Bay boaters are encouraged to dispose of onboard sewage at shore-based facilities (portable toilets and pump stations).

- 28.3** The Department thanks you for your comment on mercury and shellfish. Please refer to **Response 24.2** for more information on General Plan text changes related to this comment.
- 28.4** The Department thanks you for your comment on water and shellfish monitoring programs. The following paragraph, located on pages 52-53, will be changed as follows:

A number of federal and state agencies are currently monitoring the water quality in the bay. State Parks tests the west shore beach waters and the septic systems for these facilities. National Parks has instituted a regular program of water quality monitoring. A bay monitoring program also exists to track the health of the bay by measuring many

parameters such as temperature, salinity, suspended sediment, depth, and micro- and macro-invertebrates. These long- term studies have permanent sampling stations located off Millerton and Tomasini Points as well as off the Cyprus Grove Area. In addition, a state mussel watch monitoring station is located in the bay and regular water quality testing is conducted to ensure the health of shellfish for public consumption. The California Department of Health Services Preharvest Shellfish Program is responsible for monitoring activities of both shellfish and shellfish growing water quality in commercial shellfish growing areas. The RWQCB has developed a TMDL Pathogen Plan for the bay and monitoring is conducted to ensure compliance.

- 28.5** The Department thanks you for your comment on maintaining water quality in the Marconi Cove area. Please refer to **Response 8.8** which adds a new Guideline, MC-5, to be located on page 171. Please refer to **Response 12.1** for more information on recreation proposals at Marconi Cove.

## **4. RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE GENERAL PLAN**

This chapter contains recommended changes and modifications the Preliminary General Plan/ Draft EIR for Tomales Bay State Park made subsequent to its public release and the public review process. Changes that are a result of responses to comments detailed in Chapter 3 are presented in Section 4.1. Section 4.2 includes proposed Department staff-directed changes that cover editorial clarifications and minor revisions to the plan language to emphasize or clarify points or issues of interest.

### ***4.1 Changes from Responses to Public Comments***

Page 166, the following guideline, HD-13, will be added to the General Plan:

#### **HD-13 Upgrade Heart's Desire Beach Restroom Waste Disposal System**

The Heart's Desire Beach restroom waste disposal system should be upgraded to meet demands during peak use periods. Alternative methods shall be explored for waste disposal that affords adequate protection to stream habitat and maintains high water quality.

Page 165, the following guideline, HD-7, will be amended on as follows:

#### **HD-7 Adapt former Hike-Bike Campground to a Group Campground**

This site could be easily adapted to function as a group campground (approximately 40 people), which would help address the local deficit of this kind of public camping experience in the West Marin area.

Page 165, the following guideline, HD-8, will be amended as follows:

#### **HD-8 Develop Small Drive-in Campground above the Entrance Station**

The current park maintenance storage area (the "boneyard") is a suitable location for an approximately 15-site (maximum) drive-in campground for small vehicles. The campground could include some "walk-in" sites, a campground host site, and a small campfire center. This campground would help address the local deficit of this kind of public camping experience in the West Marin area.

Page 161, the following guideline, COM-5, will be amended as follows:

Coordinate regional resource and recreation planning, development, and management issues such as trail connections, water and boat access, the Highway 1 scenic corridor and wayside stop access points, camping, land acquisition, water quality, commercial aquaculture, wildfire and prescribed burning issues, exotic plants and animals, biocorridors, traffic issues, and the scenic and aquatic resources of Tomales Bay. State Parks will coordinate with appropriate agencies to address the complex issues of Tomales Bay recreation, water quality, and wildlife preservation. Some of the outstanding issues include: boating access, sanitary facilities, shoreline camping, noise, and disturbance of marine mammals and seabirds.

Pages 130-131, the last paragraph will be changed as follows:

Develop a Watershed Management Plan for the park to define current conditions, identify data gaps, and to determine where improvement measures are needed. Elements of this plan may include, but not be limited to: 1) Inventory and prioritize sediment sources, analyze the sediment transport functions in the stream systems with respect to their impact on instream habitat and on sediment delivery to Tomales Bay. Assess and monitor the impacts of park roads on water quality. 2) Determine if fluvial geomorphic analysis is needed for park streams (and if so, at what level). This analysis would provide a scientific basis for selection, design, implementation and monitoring of future fisheries habitat enhancement and sediment reduction projects. 3) Assess the impacts to ecology, the watershed, and water quality from recreation and other park activities.

Page 136, will be changed as follows:

**WIL-6** Maintain and enhance northern spotted owl and osprey populations and habitat within the park by activities such as monitoring the local population, participating with other agencies in implementing recovery strategies, careful location of recreational facilities, and avoiding tree removal or trail work in spotted owl habitat or around known osprey nesting sites during their breeding season.

Page 161, will be changed as follows:

**COM-4** Continue Department participation in regional planning forums such as the 2002-03 *ad hoc* "West Marin Planners Group"



(consisting of planners from Marin County, National Park Service, State Parks, and the Tomales Bay Watershed Council) to coordinate recreation and land use issues. State Parks should also work with other agencies, such as The Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary, to coordinate regional resource and recreation planning, development, and management.

Page 150, will be changed as follows:

Enhance the recreational use of watercraft on Tomales Bay waters by providing safe and convenient water access facilities. The character of access accommodations (e.g., ramps, steps, gravel/sand beach, etc.) and their design shall be responsive to both the specific setting and the nature of the projected use. Consider existing uses, such as adjacent state water bottom leases for aquaculture, when evaluating watercraft access points on Tomales Bay.

Page 171, a new guideline, MC-5, will be added to the General Plan as follows:

**MC-5. Design Recreational Facilities to Respect Water Quality and Shellfish Aquaculture**

State Parks shall coordinate with the Department of Fish and Game and the Department of Health Services to ensure that development and operation of recreational facilities at Marconi Cove consider potential impacts to freshwater and baywater quality, wildlife, and to existing state water bottom leases utilized for commercial shellfish aquaculture.

Page 150, the Recreational Activities, Facilities, and Visitor Experience Goal will be changed as follows:

Provide a variety of recreational opportunities that will allow California's diverse population to enjoy themselves and to refresh themselves physically and spiritually in a healthful outdoor recreation setting. New facilities development will strive to minimize negative impacts on the park's natural, cultural, and aesthetic resources.

Page 24, the last paragraph will be changed as follows:

Public input for this general plan was gathered and stakeholders were informed and involved in a number of ways, including a planning Website, a public scoping meeting, a park visitor survey, and a newsletter. Planned public involvement efforts include a future public meeting to review the plan proposals contained in the Draft General Plan that is distributed for

public comment during the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review process and a concluding State Parks Commission Hearing. Two coordination meetings were held with the Tomales Bay Watershed Council, Point Reyes National Seashore, and Marin County concerning their on-going planning efforts. A contact list was developed and added to throughout the planning process.

Page 26, the last paragraph will be changed as follows:

The general plan team worked with other public agencies, groups, and individuals to integrate our planning with regional concerns, efforts, trends, and opportunities. The State Park general planning team ~~coordinated the general planning effort with the on-going planning work of~~ participated in two meetings that included representatives of the Tomales Bay Watershed Council, Point Reyes National Seashore, and Marin County in order to help coordinate the Tomales Bay State Park General Plan with the on-going planning work of these other organizations. The development of the *Tomales Bay Watershed Stewardship Plan* occurred with the participation of local State Park representatives.

Page 97, the second paragraph will be changed as follows:

The Tomales Bay Watershed Council is a group made up of local organizations and landowners, businesses, government agencies, and others dedicated to improving the water quality of Tomales Bay. The bay has not met water quality standards as outlined in the RQCB's Basin Plan and is listed as impaired under the Federal Clean Water Act, section 303(d). The Watershed Council's purpose is to create a management plan to preserve and protect Tomales Bay's water and land resources for sustainable uses by agriculture, aquaculture, business, environmental, recreation, and residential interests. ~~A first draft of a Watershed Stewardship Plan~~ *The Tomales Bay Watershed Stewardship Plan: A Framework for Action* was completed in April 2002 adopted in July 2003. Over the next few years, regulatory requirements and Best Management Practices will be developed to help meet the federal goals for water quality in the bay. The Council is working on a coordinated, comprehensive water quality monitoring program that includes Tomales Bay and tributary streams that flow through the watershed. Through outreach and education, the Council will work to promote the use of best management practices to address water quality and habitat issues.

Page 119, the last paragraph will be changed as follows:

All of the park's areas, except for the Inverness Area, border on and include the sensitive and dynamic marine resources of Tomales Bay and all of areas of the park lie within the Tomales Bay

Watershed. The Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) has designated Tomales Bay as an impaired watershed. To help address this issue, the Tomales Bay Watershed Council has recently completed the *Tomales Bay Watershed Stewardship Plan: A Framework for Action*, to guide actions. Two of the Council's general goals are to improve the water quality of Tomales Bay and to restore the environmental integrity of the entire watershed.

Page 214, the second paragraph will be changed as follows:

The General Plan recommends actions supporting the goals of the regional *Tomales Bay Watershed Stewardship Plan* ~~being~~ completed by the Tomales Bay Watershed Council to improve the water quality of Tomales Bay and to restore the environmental integrity of the entire watershed (see Guideline WAT-10). These actions include monitoring park water resources to ensure the cleanest water possible, and reducing erosion into creeks flowing to the bay. The Department will be monitoring the development of recommended assessments in the Stewardship Plan for the ecological effects of recreational boating on the bay. The effects of boat motors on commercial oyster farming and other natural resources will help evaluate the appropriateness of the General Plan's recommendation for potential motorboat launching at Marconi Cove. In addition, the park currently tests and monitors the west shore beach waters and the septic systems in these locations, and will continue to do so along with any other recommended water quality monitoring activities (see Guideline WAT-8).

Page 30, the fourth paragraph will be changed as follows:

Acquired from the mid 1970's to 2002, many of the east shore properties are relatively recent additions to the park. ~~Historic land~~ Land use associated with these parcels has included ranching and shellfish farming. These historic land uses combined with harsher environmental conditions and the general lack of recreational facilities has led to minimal public use at these locations. Current land use occurring on these parcels includes wildlife viewing, picnicking, and fishing. The highway can be a source of noise, but a visitor to these parcels is frequently treated to spectacular vistas of the bay and the winds, fogs, and sunlight that cross it. In the upper areas of the parcels east of the highway, in clear conditions, the whole bay setting can be seen and visitors can experience a sense of the expansiveness of the region and its history.

Page 52, the fifth paragraph will be changed as follows:

No known sources of mercury contamination originate from State Park property or from drainages that pass through State Park property. High mercury levels are a result of old mining operations in the Walker Creek drainage. The resulting effects of mercury contamination are widespread within Tomales Bay. Not only is commercial and sports fishing effected, but studies indicate evidence of unusual levels of mercury throughout the food chain such as the leopard sharks, bat rays, and diving ducks which feed on shellfish and crabs. The California Department of Health Services (per March 15, 2004 letter) states that they have no knowledge that commercial shellfish in Tomales Bay are contaminated with mercury at high enough levels to warrant human health advisories such as those issued by the Department of Fish and Game for the consumption specific fish species. ~~State Parks does lease portions of the bay for oyster farming.~~

Page 67, the third paragraph will be changed as follows:

Eel grass beds occur from low tide to a depth of ~~20~~ 8-10 feet, and are located off Millerton Point and Heart's Desire Beach. Submerged plants form a complex habitat for many invertebrates, fish, birds, and marine mammals.

Page 67, the fifth paragraph will be changed as follows:

Tomales Bay once supported large coho salmon and steelhead trout fisheries. These are now closed (except for the catch and release of steelhead in Walker Creek). The current primary commercial fishery in Tomales Bay is Pacific herring (*Clupea pallasii*). The modern herring fishery is almost exclusively for the Japanese herring roe market. Smaller commercial fisheries in Tomales Bay include halibut, perch, and live-bait. A few commercial fishermen occasionally take perch, anchovies for live-bait and sardines for sport fishing operations in Bodega Bay. ~~The anchovy and sardine fisheries were historically overfished and are no longer the large market fisheries of days past.~~

Page 68, the second paragraph will be changed as follows:

Clamming, while not as productive as in historic times, is still a popular recreational activity. The horseneck (gaper clam) is still a favorite for clam digging. Washington clams were once found in the park in large numbers. It is thought that the population was all but destroyed by storm events in 1982 that deposited large amounts of sediment on beaches where they were once found. Mussels are also harvested by park users. ~~A shell fish advisory is issued every year both in the summer and winter when mussels and oysters~~

~~should not be eaten due to high fecal coliform bacterial levels or other disease risks from water pollution. An annual mussel quarantine for paralytic shellfish poisoning (PSP) is put into effect from May to October. Commercial oysters are not included in the annual PSP quarantine. The commercial shellfish growers and the Department of Health Services monitor shellfish throughout the year for both PSP and coliform bacteria. Commercial oyster closures due to coliform are typically during the winter wet weather months and relate to rainfall amounts in the watershed.~~

Page 84, the fifth paragraph will be changed as follows:

Mariculture, the cultivation of seafood, is a fast-growing sector of U.S. agriculture. ~~About a half dozen~~ Six West Marin companies annually produce about 20 percent of California's commercial oyster crop, despite problems with juvenile seed mortality and water quality. Over four million oysters, with a value of over \$2 million, are produced annually by these growers. The Tomales Bay Oyster Company, one of these six West Marin companies, evolved from a San Francisco Bay company founded in 1909. The company moved from San Francisco Bay because of water pollution and set up business in West Marin where railroads transported the harvest to market. Today the company produces about a quarter million oysters each year.

Page 89, the second paragraph will be changed as follows:

The bath-house, a small frame building measuring 30' x 14', sits approximately thirty feet west of Highway 1 amid Eucalyptus trees. The Marin County assessor's office dates this house to 1920. A historic photograph from the Jack Mason Museum in Inverness shows the building set against a background of the (apparently newly-built and sparsely vegetated) American Marconi Company facilities, which were constructed in 1913-14. The bathhouse's construction, the drop siding, and the post and pier foundation are typical of construction from the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century. This small box-like building is representative of the many small fisherman houses that lined the bay next to the water's edge. Marconi Cove is adjacent to a ten acre state water bottom shellfish culture lease. Currently, Cove Mussel Company holds the lease.

Page 100, the second paragraph will be changed as follows:

Any project that involves work within a streambed or stream banks of any permanent or intermittent stream requires a permit from the California Department of Fish and Game under Section 1601 (i.e., a Streambed

Alteration Agreement) of the Fish and Game Code. A Streambed Alteration Agreement is also needed for any project that will: divert, obstruct, or change the natural flow of any river, stream, or lake; use materials from a streambed; or result in the disposal or deposition of debris, waste, or other material containing crumbled, flaked, or ground pavement where it can pass into any river, stream, or lake. ~~The California Department of Fish and Game leases parcels on the bottom of Tomales Bay to aquacultural concerns, and oversees herring fishing in the bay.~~ The California Fish and Game Commission has the authority from the State Lands Commission to lease state water bottoms for aquaculture. The Department of Fish and Game oversees and manages aquaculture on these leases and manages and sets the annual harvest quota for the commercial Pacific Herring gillnet fishery in Tomales Bay. Much of the commercial fishing occurs in waters adjacent to the State Park lands on the east shore.

Page 106, the second paragraph will be changed as follows:

~~On the east side of the bay, several oyster companies own portions of the shore and lease bay bottom parcels from the California Department of Fish and Game for their operations. The Tomales Bay Oyster Company owns the shoreline between Millerton and Tomasini Points and leases the bottom of the bay off that parcel. The Hog Island Oyster Company, based north of the community of Marshall, leases a bay bottom parcel off the northern end of Tomasini Point. Another oyster company leases a portion of the bottom of the bay off the southern end of Marconi Cove from the Department of Fish and Game.~~ On the east side of the bay, five of the six commercial shellfish growers in Tomales Bay lease state water bottoms from the Fish and Game Commission adjacent to state park land. Tomales Bay Oyster Company leases 156 acres. To the north and adjacent to Tomales Bay Oyster Company, Hog Island Oyster Company, Marin Oyster Company, and Pt. Reyes Oyster Company each lease 25 acre parcels. Cove Mussel Company leases a 10 acre parcel in the southern end of Marconi Cove. These state water bottom leases comprise 47 percent of the total Tomales Bay aquaculture acreage.

Page 129, the Watershed and Water Quality Goal will be changed as follows:

Promote healthy watershed processes and high quality waters in the park, ~~and in the Tomales Bay Watershed, and in Tomales Bay itself~~ in cooperation with other agencies and the local community.

Page 214, Guideline WIL-9 will be changed as follows:

Improve aquatic habitats in the watershed and in Tomales Bay through the reduction of erosion.

Page 52, the first paragraph will be changed as follows:

The contributing factors involved in elevated levels of pathogens introduced to the waters of Tomales Bay are substandard or failing septic systems, agricultural wastes, boating and other recreational uses, urban runoff, and natural populations of wildlife (primarily large numbers of migrating and resident birds). Some bacteria are a natural component of marine and aquatic food webs, but human activities can add pathogenic bacteria and viruses to Tomales Bay waters. Certain types of bacteria pose a risk to public health from water contact activities or consumption of shellfish. Fecal coliform bacteria are the indicator species used to determine water quality in shellfish growing waters like Tomales Bay. Shellfish have the ability to ingest and concentrate pathogenic bacteria and viruses from surrounding waters and pass them to humans. Because of the risk of human illness due to sewage discharges into Tomales Bay boaters are encouraged to dispose of onboard sewage at shore-based facilities (portable toilets and pump stations).

Pages 52-53, the last and first paragraphs will be changed as follows:

A number of federal and state agencies are currently monitoring the water quality in the bay. State Parks tests the west shore beach waters and the septic systems for these facilities. National Parks has instituted a regular program of water quality monitoring. A bay monitoring program also exists to track the health of the bay by measuring many parameters such as temperature, salinity, suspended sediment, depth, and micro- and macro-invertebrates. These long- term studies have permanent sampling stations located off Millerton and Tomasini Points as well as off the Cyprus Grove Area. In addition, a state mussel watch monitoring station is located in the bay and regular water quality testing is conducted to ensure the health of shellfish for public consumption. The California Department of Health Services Preharvest Shellfish Program is responsible for monitoring activities of both shellfish and shellfish growing water quality in commercial shellfish growing areas. The RWQCB has developed a TMDL Pathogen Plan for the bay and monitoring is conducted to ensure compliance.

## **4.2 Department Staff-Directed Changes**

**PAGES 4 - 7:**

### **PRINCIPAL PLANNING ISSUES OBJECTIVES AND KEY SOLUTION CONCEPTS**

The following summaries highlight the important regional and parkwide planning objectives ~~issues~~ that are addressed ~~in the~~ by this plan. Key plan concepts for ~~resolving~~ achieving these objectives ~~issues~~ follow each park issue summary, which are fully described in the Planning Influences and Issues Section.

#### **Issue: Regional Planning, Interagency Coordination, and Community Relations**

Regional ~~Issues~~ objectives such as improved water quality, recreation and education planning, and resource and aesthetic preservation cannot be achieved ~~solved~~ simply at the park level. Accordingly, this general plan evaluates the issues and opportunities of Tomales Bay State Park in its regional and community perspective.

##### **KEY CONCEPTS:**

Enhance interagency coordination concerning the regional acquisition and management of ecological, biological, recreational, cultural, aesthetic, and educational resources to create a more efficient, effective, cooperative, and holistic resource and recreation vision

- Maintain and enhance positive relations and communications between State Parks and neighboring communities, ~~and landowners, and land-managing agencies~~ towards meeting common goals, including security, safety, aesthetic and resource protection, and recreational opportunity

#### **Issue: Park Connectivity**

Tomales Bay State Park is currently comprised of seven disconnected land parcels. An important objective goal of ~~the~~ this plan is to coordinate the planned uses of these parcels so they can, as much as possible, function as a whole despite their physical separation.

##### **KEY CONCEPTS:**

- Support the goals of the California Coastal Trail Plan by encouraging new north-south trails in the park and connections between park trails and surrounding public trail systems and recreation areas
- Improve short-term “rest-stop” recreational, orientation, and interpretive opportunities for Highway 1 travelers

#### **Issue: Water Quality, Erosion, and Estuaries**

The Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) has designated Tomales Bay as an impaired watershed. This plan's objective is ~~plan makes~~



~~recommendations~~ to improve the quality of the park's stream, estuary, and adjacent bay waters and to reduce erosion and heal erosion scars.

**KEY CONCEPT:**

- Promote healthy watershed processes and high quality waters in the park and in the Tomales Bay Watershed in cooperation with other agencies and the local community

**Issue: Sensitive Species, Biocorridors, and Habitats**

The park is currently a refuge for a number of sensitive plant and animal species of terrestrial, estuarine, intertidal, and marine environments. The plan's objective is ~~plan makes recommendations~~ to enhance these habitats and biocorridors, restore sensitive plant and animal populations, and protect these and other less sensitive species.

**KEY CONCEPTS:**

- Protect and, where appropriate, restore aquatic and terrestrial sensitive plant and animal habitats and species within the park
- Preserve, rehabilitate and, as appropriate, establish new habitat linkages between the park and surrounding protected lands
- Eradicate or control invasive exotic plant species in the park

**Issue: Vegetation and Fire Management**

The plan's objective is ~~plan makes vegetation and fire management recommendations~~ to help restore native plant communities and natural vegetation processes, improve recreational and aesthetic values, and reduce wildfire danger.

**KEY CONCEPTS:**

- Manage for the enhancement and perpetuation of native plant species diversity and the biological integrity of native plant communities
- Restore the role of fire in the natural ecological processes of the park

**Issue: Recent Acquisitions, Recreational Demand, and Visitor Facilities**

One of the major objectives ~~issues~~ for this general plan is ~~how~~ to accommodate and respond to an expected rise in recreational demand in West Marin with new recreation facilities, while, at the same time, providing adequate protection for sensitive natural, cultural and aesthetic resources.

The plan addresses the adequacy and possible improvement or addition of recreational facilities such as trails, scenic wayside pullouts, group and individual picnic areas, interpretive exhibits, boat ramps, campgrounds, and restrooms. The plan considers improvements to park entrances, traffic and pedestrian circulation, and parking as well as visitor services and concessions. Recent acquisitions of ranchlands above Millerton Point, a former marina site at Marconi Cove, and coastal property north of Marshall are evaluated in the plan for their recreational and preservation potentials and recommendations are made for future use and management.

#### KEY CONCEPTS:

- Focus and anchor east shore recreation at Marconi Cove and west shore recreation at Heart's Desire Area
- Manage the greater part of park areas for their habitat, watershed, and aesthetic values and for low-impact and low-density recreation opportunities such as trail use, nature observation, and picnicking
- Enhance trail connections with Point Reyes National Seashore in the Heart's Desire and Inverness Areas
- Improve recreational opportunities along the Highway 1 corridor where recent acquisitions present new opportunities
- Formalize small-scale camping opportunities in previously developed areas
- Watercraft and sailboard launching opportunities will be provided at Marconi Cove and hiking and mountain biking recreational opportunities will be provided at the proposed trail in the Millerton Uplands
- Use sustainable design in the siting, construction, and maintenance of park facilities

*Improve recreational opportunities along the Highway 1 corridor where recent acquisitions present new opportunities*

#### **Issue: Visitor Safety and Natural Hazards**

The plan's objective is ~~plan makes recommendations~~ to improve visitor safety regarding potential hazards such as wildfire, landslides, and earthquakes.

#### KEY CONCEPTS:

- Provide for public safety and prevent structural failures due to seismic activity, landslides, flooding, and erosion
- Anticipate wildfires and plan strategies to preserve sensitive park resources, ensure human safety, and protect property

#### **Issue: Park Operations**

The plan's objective is ~~plan makes recommendations~~ to improve employee housing, administration, and park maintenance facilities. The current park maintenance facility in the Heart's Desire Area is considerably distant from the park's land parcels on the east side of Tomales Bay.

#### KEY CONCEPTS:

- Provide needed and appropriate services and facilities for park security, resource protection, visitor access and services, public health and safety, park administration, maintenance, and staff housing in the most efficient, effective, and environmentally-sensitive way

#### **Issue: Aesthetics and Viewshed**

The plan's objective is ~~plan makes recommendations~~ to improve protection and management of the park's aesthetic resources and maintain the area's unique spirit of place.

**KEY CONCEPTS:**

- Identify and preserve the distinctive aesthetic qualities that help give Tomales Bay State Park its unique "spirit of place"
- Scale and site new recreational development to harmonize with the landscape

*Scale and site new recreational development to harmonize with the landscape*

**Issue: Cultural Resources Management**

The plan's objective is ~~plan makes recommendations~~ to improve protection and management of the park's archaeological and historic resources.

**KEY CONCEPT:**

- Provide an appropriate level of protection, stabilization, preservation, and interpretation of the park's cultural resources, focusing on areas of archaeological and historical importance

**Issue: Interpretation and Education**

The plan's objective is ~~plan makes recommendations~~ to expand the park's interpretive and educational programs and facilities to keep pace with expanded recreational opportunities and facilities.

**KEY CONCEPT:**

- Increase visitor understanding, appreciation, and enjoyment of the natural, cultural, aesthetic and recreational resources of the park

**PAGE 99, LAST PARAGRAPH:**

**CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION**

The California Coastal Commission was established by voter initiative in 1972 and made permanent by the Legislature in 1976 to regulate land and water uses in the coastal zone ~~that are consistent~~ to ensure consistency with the policies of the Coastal Act. Virtually any development project or activity within the coastal zone requires a coastal development permit from the Coastal Commission. This applies to projects proposed by both private and public entities within the coastal zone. In some cases, local agencies such as cities or counties have developed a Local Coastal Plan (LCP). Where an LCP is in effect and has been approved by the Coastal Commission, the local agency ~~may have~~ has the authority to issue most ~~the~~ coastal act permits for the development. Marin County has a Coastal Commission-approved Local Coastal Plan (1980) that is currently being updated. Coastal Act permits for all proposed projects within Tomales Bay State Park should, therefore, be obtained from Marin County under their approved LCP prior to project implementation.

**Page 129:**

**WAT-2** Consider the removal of stock ponds on park lands ~~(if they do not provide habitat for threatened or endangered species)~~ to re-establish normal seasonal flow patterns.

**PAGE 135:**

**WIL-4** If it is necessary to regulate animal populations, use methods based on sound principles of ecosystem management that are consistent with ~~Department Resource Management Directives~~ the Resource Management Chapters of the Department's Operations Manual (DOM).

**PAGE 136:**

**WIL-7** Inspect buildings for sensitive species, particularly for bat populations roosts, ~~and establish improvement measures for any sensitive species identified prior to major maintenance, construction, or structure demolition.~~ If a roost is present or suspected, make an early determination if continued use of the facility by bats is a management objective, then proceed according to Department management guidelines.

**Page 137:**

*In California, habitat destruction and fragmentation and invasion of exotic species are the ~~two~~ largest threats to the survival of endangered species*

**PAGE 169:**

**MIL-1 Enhance Restore Natural Values at Tomasini Point**

Preserve and protect the Tomasini Point estuary area as habitat for native plants and animals. Facilitate volunteer programs to assist with research, restoration and monitoring projects. After studying the sensitivities and dynamics of the Tomasini Point area and its estuary, realign the trail, provide interpretation along the trail, and manage the estuary according to research results and preservation goals.

**Page 243, Appendix B (Table) under “Comments” Column:**

(Make change on Row 14, “Jepson Trail”): Hiking ~~and Equestrian~~  
(Make change on Row 15, “Johnstone Trail”): Hiking ~~and Equestrian~~

**PAGES 270-271 (APPENDIX L): DELETE REFERENCED DIRECTIVES THAT WERE SUPERSEDED BY THE DEPARTMENT’S UPDATED OPERATIONS MANUAL (DOM) REVISED 2004.**

Resource Management Directives. ~~These directives amplify the legal codes contained in the Public Resources Code, the California Code of Regulations, and the California State Park and Recreation Commission’s Statement of Policy and Rules of Order. The directives most pertinent to existing or potential issues at Tomales Bay State Park are:~~

- ~~#1 — State Park System resources definition~~
- ~~#2 — State Park Resource Manager description —~~
- ~~#3 — State Park inventory~~
- ~~#4 — State Park acquisition objectives~~
- ~~#5 — State Park development~~
- ~~#7 — Natural and scenic resource analysis for State Parks and Reserves~~
- ~~#9 — Boundaries and Developments in Natural Preserves~~
- ~~#24 — Primary objective of the Department of Parks and Recreation~~

- ~~#25— Program establishment for identification, description, and evaluation of all resources~~
- ~~#26— Identification and management of environmental and human-related factors influencing State Park lands~~
- ~~#28— Visitor use impacts~~
- ~~#29— Vegetation management~~
- ~~#31— Environmental resource management~~
- ~~#32— Resource management programs~~
- ~~#33— Exotic plant management~~
- ~~#34— Invasive vegetation control~~
- ~~#35— Natural wildlife habitat preservation~~
- ~~#36— Wildlife population balance~~
- ~~#37— Soil conservation and erosion control~~
- ~~#40— Paleontological resource identification~~
- ~~#41— Paleontological resource protection~~
- ~~#42— Allowable uses to protect water features~~
- ~~#43— Water quality control~~
- ~~#44— Water diversion~~
- ~~#45— Water pollution control~~
- ~~#46— Environmental quality~~
- ~~#50— Statewide inventory, preservation, protection, and interpretation of archeological sites~~
- ~~#51— Preservation of native California Indian resources~~
- ~~#52— Native California Indian community participation in cultural resource management~~
- ~~#54— Identification, evaluation, and description of historic resources~~
- ~~#55— Criteria for determination of significant historic resources~~
- ~~#57— Inventory of significant cultural resources~~
- ~~#58— Cultural resource protection~~
- ~~#59— Approval for underground work~~
- ~~#60— Management and interpretation of human history~~
- ~~#61— Adaptive use of historic structures~~
- ~~#63— Cultural resource management programs~~
- ~~#69— Archeological resources~~
- ~~#70— Archeological values, identification, recordation, evaluation, and protection~~
- ~~#74— Recreation development/use.~~